RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 241, noes 179, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 527]

AYES—241

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Adler (NJ)
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Ellsworth
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McMahon
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murtha
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NOES—179

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
Fallin
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Herger
Hill
Hunter
Inglis
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Melancon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Olson
Paulsen
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rehberg
Reichert
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schmidt
Schock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden
Wamp
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—12

Barrett (SC)
Buyer
Farr
Fudge
Granger
Graves
Heller
Hoekstra
Klein (FL)
Murphy, Patrick
Paul
Rangel

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1058

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. HELLER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 527, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include tabular and extraneous material on H.R. 3082.

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

There was no objection.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 622 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3082.

□ 1058

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3082) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, with Ms. BALDWIN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

□ 1100

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, Members, on behalf of America's service men and women, our veterans, and their families, it is a privilege for me to present the Fiscal Year 2010 Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill.

I believe this bill and the work we have done since January of 2007 is work that all of us, Democrats and Republicans alike, can be very proud of. In this time of war, we have continued our tradition of a bipartisan Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, a bill that honors in a meaningful way the service and sacrifice of our service men and women, our veterans, and their families.

In the past 2½ years, along with the passage of this bill, the Congress will have increased veterans health care and benefits funding by 58 percent. That is unprecedented in the history of this country, and I believe our veterans and their families have earned every dime of that funding.

In addition, we have a new 21st-century GI Education bill. And, recently, President Obama signed into law a provision amending that bill that will provide a college scholarship to every child who has lost a mother or father in military service to our country since September 11, 2001.

In 2½ years, this Congress will have done a number of things on behalf of our veterans and troops, including adding 8,300 VA processors to reduce the

unconscionable backlog that veterans are having to stand in in order to receive their earned benefits.

We will have provided funding for an additional 115 VA community-based outpatient clinics, and this bill adds 30 more. We will have provided an additional 42 vet centers, and this bill adds 28 more.

We have allowed the Veterans Health Administration to hire an additional 2,657 doctors, 11,509 nurses, and other critical additional staff. We will increase the travel reimbursement rate, the per-mileage reimbursement rate for veterans having to travel, in some cases, hundreds of miles to VA hospitals—which has not been increased since 1979—we will increase that from 11 cents per mile to 41.5 cents per mile. To many in America, that extra 30 cents may not sound like much. To many of America's finest, our veterans, it's the difference between them being able to afford to drive to get the VA health care they need and deserve, or not.

Our increased funding for veterans in this bill and over the past 2½ years means our veterans have better access to health care they need and deserve and have earned. It means improved access to health care for veterans in rural areas. And it means the opening of the doors of our VA hospitals and clinics to many middle- and low-income veterans that have not been allowed the opportunity that they've earned through their military service. Additionally, these resources ensure that our veterans will have shorter waiting times for doctor appointments.

We have also worked hard to make sure that our service men and women know that Congress deeply respects the sacrifices that they and the unsung heroes of America's defense—their families—have made each and every day to keep our Nation safe. We've heard time and again in testimony that the best support we can give our military when they're deployed overseas is the knowledge that their families are cared for here at home. We have listened to that voice and have tried to fund a number of key initiatives for our troops.

For example, in the past year, this subcommittee will have added $2.8 billion for new military hospitals so that our service men and women know that their families will get the best possible health care in high-quality facilities while they are serving overseas. We've added $1 billion for new child care centers to serve 20,000 additional military children, and $570 million in additional funding for barracks because Congress needs to show our volunteer forces from day one that we appreciate their decision to serve.

The Subcommittee for Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs did not accomplish this alone. There are several key leaders that worked tirelessly behind the scenes to support these efforts. I want to especially commend Speaker PELOSI, who promised over 3 years ago that if she became Speaker she would make supporting our veterans and their families one of Congress' highest priorities. Speaker PELOSI has kept that promise to those who have kept their promise to serve our Nation, and I salute her for that.

I want to salute Chairman OBEY, another one of the unsung heroes in supporting America's veterans, our military, the service men and women, and their families. While Mr. WAMP and I, as ranking member and chairman of the subcommittee, have often been out front on this, Chairman OBEY has provided the allocations, the unprecedented historic increased allocations for our subcommittee that has allowed us to accomplish many of the goals and achievements that I have mentioned in the last few minutes.

In particular, above all other things that he has done, I want to thank Chairman OBEY for providing a green light and encouraging and supporting and facilitating a historic initiative in this bill, which is, for the first time ever we will provide forward funding for veterans health care funding. That would not have happened without Mr. OBEY's support.

In addition, Chairman SPRATT—not a member of our subcommittee, but the chairman of the House Budget Committee—has played a key role, along with Chairman FILNER, the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

And, finally, but absolutely not least, I want to thank my colleague, my friend, and the ranking member of this committee, Mr. WAMP of Tennessee. He has been a partner and a leader at every step of the way in supporting our troops and our veterans and their families. His commitment to our military and our veterans is deep, is genuine, and he puts it to work every day by working hard on their behalf. I want to thank him for his vital role in not only shaping this bill, but our bill last year as well.

Madam Chair, let me try to focus, rather than on a long list of numbers, on some of the major initiatives in this bill.

As I referenced, for the first time in history we provide an advanced appropriation for VA medical care. This will allow the VA to invest taxpayer dollars more efficiently and more effectively. And I want to thank Mr. OBEY, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. WAMP and Speaker PELOSI for making this possible. I want to salute America's veteran service organizations, leaders of our veterans organizations who have made this one of their highest priorities.

Second, we provide $450 million to build new troop housing for Army trainees, over 60,000 of whom are presently living in barracks that don't even meet minimum DOD standards. You know, 18- and 19-year-old military recruits don't have many lobbyists running around Capitol Hill on their behalf, but they deserve our Nation's respect and support for their decision to serve in the military.

Third, we provide $200 million for the Guard and Reserve Construction Initiative, recognizing the vital role these troops are playing in Iraq and Afghanistan and in our Nation's defense. And particularly, in addition to his other efforts, I want to thank Mr. WAMP for taking a leadership role on this Guard and Reserve Initiative.

Fourth, this bill begins a process of funding our operations in Iraq and Afghanistan through the regular appropriations process, and we include $1.4 billion for vital military construction to support our troops in Afghanistan.

Fifth, recognizing that the mental wounds of war can sometimes be as painful and long lasting as the physical wounds of war, we provide $4.6 billion for the VA to continue its improvements in PTSD and mental health care for America's vets.

Six, this bill includes funding for the 1,200 new claims processors to reduce the backlog of veterans receiving the benefits they've earned.

Seven, this bill also continues to open up, as I referenced briefly, VA medical care to more middle- and low-income veterans, many of whom have been locked out since a cap was placed on income thresholds back in 2003.

Finally, and this is important, we want to ensure that the historic increases for VA health care and benefits, that those dollars are spent wisely. And I know Mr. WAMP and I share a strong commitment to this; we want to see that every dime of that is spent for the highest priority needs of our veterans, so together we supported increasing the VA Office of Inspector General by $19.2 million. And we have every intention, through our subcommittee, of exercising increased oversight of the VA to see that these tax dollars are spent effectively and efficiently.

Just a few basic numbers: overall, this bill totals $77.9 billion in discretionary funding for fiscal year 2010. This is $239 million above President Obama's request and $5 billion more than fiscal year 2009. The bill will include $48.2 billion in fiscal year 2011 advanced funding for VA medical services, medical support and compliance. and medical facilities, an 8.3 percent increase over the historic funding level of 2010.

In military construction, family housing, and BRAC, the bill provides $24.6 billion and fully funds BRAC 05 at $7.5 billion. For the VA in fiscal year 2010, the bill provides $53 billion in discretionary funding. This is $5.4 billion above the 2009 funding and matches President Obama's VA request, which I should point out was the largest increase requested by any President in over three decades. The fiscal year 2010 increase for the Veterans Health Administration is $4.4 billion, which is 11 percent over fiscal year 2009.

Finally, I want to thank the people who work every day—in fact, day and night—behind the scenes without public applause for our veterans and our troops and their families. These are the people who make up the staff of the

Military Construction and VA Appropriations Subcommittee, and I want to thank them by name: the minority staff, led by Martin Delgado, Liz Dawson and Kelly Shea, and Erin Fogelman and Juan Alvarez from Mr. WAMP's staff. The majority staff: led by my subcommittee clerk Carol Murphy, Tim Peterson, Mary Arnold, Walter Hearne, and Donna Shahbaz, and Lindsey Davis on my staff.

I would also like to add a special thanks to John Conger, who has recently left my staff to work for the military as an employee of the Pentagon. All of these people have helped continue the long, proud tradition and legacy of this subcommittee to work on a bipartisan—frankly, a nonpartisan—basis, always putting our troops and veterans first. And as I say that, I once again thank our ranking member for always fighting and putting first our troops and our veterans.

Military Construction - Veterans Affairs - and Related Agencies Appropriations Act - FY 2010 (H.R. 3082)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2010 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE					
Military construction, Army	4,692,648	3,660,779	3,630,422	-1,062,226	-30,357
Rescission	-51,320	---	-59,500	-8,180	-59,500
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 111-5)	180,000	---	---	-180,000	---
Overseas contingency operations	---	923,884	924,484	+924,484	+600
Overseas contingency operations (P.L. 111-32)	1,182,989	---	---	-1,182,989	---
Overseas contingency operations (P.L. 111-32) (emergency)	143,242	---	---	-143,242	---
Overseas contingency operations (P.L. 111-32) (rescission) (emergency)	-143,242	---	---	+143,242	---
Total	6,004,317	4,584,663	4,495,406	-1,508,911	-89,257
Military construction, Navy and Marine Corps	3,333,369	3,763,264	3,757,330	+423,961	-5,934
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 111-5)	280,000	---	---	-280,000	---
Overseas contingency operations (P.L. 111-32)	235,881	---	---	-235,881	---
Total	3,849,250	3,763,264	3,757,330	-91,920	-5,934
Military construction, Air Force	1,117,746	1,145,434	1,359,171	+241,425	+213,737
Rescission	-20,821	---	---	+20,821	---
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 111-5)	180,000	---	---	-180,000	---
Overseas contingency operations	---	474,500	474,500	+474,500	---
Overseas contingency operations (P.L. 111-32)	281,620	---	---	-281,620	---
Total	1,558,545	1,619,934	1,833,671	+275,126	+213,737
Military construction, Defense-Wide	1,695,204	3,097,526	2,743,526	+1,048,322	-354,000
Rescission	-3,589	---	-25,800	-22,211	-25,800
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 111-5)	1,450,000	---	---	-1,450,000	---
Overseas contingency operations	---	6,600	---	---	-6,600
Overseas contingency operations (P.L. 111-32)	661,552	---	---	-661,552	---
Total	3,803,167	3,104,126	2,717,726	-1,085,441	-386,400
Total, Active components	15,215,279	13,071,987	12,804,133	-2,411,146	-267,854
Military construction, Army National Guard	736,317	426,491	529,129	-207,188	+102,638
Rescission	-1,400	---	---	+1,400	---
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 111-5)	50,000	---	---	-50,000	---
Total	784,917	426,491	529,129	-255,788	+102,638
Military construction, Air National Guard	242,924	128,261	226,126	-16,798	+97,865
Emergency appropriations (111-5)	50,000	---	---	-50,000	---
Total	292,924	128,261	226,126	-66,798	+97,865
Military construction, Army Reserve	282,607	374,862	432,516	+149,909	+57,654
Military construction, Navy Reserve	57,045	64,124	125,874	+68,829	+61,750
Military construction, Air Force Reserve	36,958	27,476	103,169	+66,211	+75,693
Total, Reserve components	1,454,451	1,021,214	1,416,814	-37,637	+395,600
Total, Military construction	16,669,730	14,093,201	14,220,947	-2,448,783	+127,746
Appropriations	(12,194,818)	(12,688,217)	(12,907,263)	(+712,445)	(+219,046)
Rescissions	(-77,130)	---	(-85,300)	(-8,170)	(-85,300)
Emergency appropriations	(2,190,000)	---	---	(-2,190,000)	---
Overseas contingency operations	(2,362,042)	(1,404,984)	(1,398,984)	(-963,058)	(-6,000)
North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program	230,867	276,314	234,914	+4,047	-41,400
Overseas contingency operations (P.L. 111-32)	100,000	---	---	-100,000	---
Total	330,867	276,314	234,914	-95,953	-41,400

Military Construction - Veterans Affairs - and Related Agencies Appropriations Act - FY 2010 (H.R. 3082)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2010 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Family housing construction, Army	646,580	273,236	273,236	-373,344	---
Emergency appropriations (111-5)	34,507	---	---	-34,507	---
Total	681,087	273,236	273,236	-407,851	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Army	716,110	523,418	523,418	-192,692	---
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 111-5)	3,932	---	---	-3,932	---
Total	720,042	523,418	523,418	-196,624	---
Family housing construction, Navy and Marine Corps	380,123	146,569	146,569	-233,554	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps	376,062	368,540	368,540	-7,522	---
Family housing construction, Air Force	395,879	66,101	66,101	-329,778	---
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 111-5)	80,100	---	---	-80,100	---
Total	475,979	66,101	66,101	-409,878	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Air Force	594,465	502,936	502,936	-91,529	---
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 111-5)	16,461	---	---	-16,461	---
Total	610,926	502,936	502,936	-107,990	---
Family housing construction, Defense-Wide	---	2,859	2,859	+2,859	---
Rescission	-6,040	---	---	+6,040	---
Total	-6,040	2,859	2,859	+8,899	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Defense-Wide	49,231	49,214	49,214	-17	---
Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund	850	2,600	2,600	+1,750	---
Homeowners assistance fund	4,500	23,225	23,225	+18,725	---
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 111-5)	555,000	---	---	-555,000	---
Total	559,500	23,225	23,225	-536,275	---
Total, Family housing	3,847,760	1,958,698	1,958,698	-1,889,062	---
Appropriations	(3,163,800)	(1,958,698)	(1,958,698)	(-1,205,102)	---
Rescissions	(-6,040)	---	---	(+6,040)	---
Emergency appropriations	(690,000)	---	---	(-690,000)	---
Chemical demilitarization construction, Defense-Wide	144,278	146,541	146,541	+2,263	---
Base realignment and closure:					
Base realignment and closure account, 1990	458,377	396,768	536,768	+78,391	+140,000
Base realignment and closure account, 2005	8,765,613	7,479,498	7,479,498	-1,286,115	---
Overseas contingency operations (P.L. 111-32)	263,300	---	---	-263,300	---
Total	9,028,913	7,479,498	7,479,498	-1,549,415	---
Total, Base realignment and closure	9,487,290	7,876,266	8,016,266	-1,471,024	+140,000
Air National Guard Fire Stations (Sec. 131)	28,000	---	---	-28,000	---
Army National Guard Aviation and Training (Sec. 132)	147,000	---	---	-147,000	---
Total, title I	30,654,925	24,351,020	24,577,366	-6,077,559	+226,346
Appropriations	(25,132,753)	(22,946,036)	(23,263,682)	(-1,869,071)	(+317,646)
Rescissions	(-83,170)	---	(-85,300)	(-2,130)	(-85,300)
Emergency appropriations	(2,880,000)	---	---	(-2,880,000)	---
Overseas contingency operations	(2,725,342)	(1,404,984)	(1,398,984)	(-1,326,358)	(-6,000)

Military Construction - Veterans Affairs - and Related Agencies Appropriations Act - FY 2010 (H.R. 3082)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2010 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS					
Veterans Benefits Administration					
Compensation and pensions	43,111,681	47,218,207	47,218,207	+4,106,526	---
Readjustment benefits	3,832,944	8,663,624	8,663,624	+4,830,680	---
Veterans insurance and indemnities	42,300	49,288	49,288	+6,988	---
Veterans housing benefit program fund (indefinite)	2,000	23,553	23,553	+21,553	---
(Limitation on direct loans)	(500)	(500)	(500)	---	---
Credit subsidy	-246,000	-133,000	-133,000	+113,000	---
Administrative expenses	157,210	165,082	165,082	+7,872	---
Guaranteed Transitional Housing Loans for Homeless Veterans	(750)	(750)	(750)	---	---
Vocational rehabilitation loans program account	61	29	29	-32	---
(Limitation on direct loans)	(3,180)	(2,298)	(2,298)	(-882)	---
Administrative expenses	320	328	328	+8	---
Native American veteran housing loan program account	646	664	664	+18	---
Total, Veterans Benefits Administration	46,901,162	55,987,775	55,987,775	+9,086,613	---
Veterans Health Administration					
Medical services	30,969,903	34,704,500	34,704,500	+3,734,597	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2011	---	---	37,136,000	+37,136,000	+37,136,000
Subtotal	30,969,903	34,704,500	71,840,500	+40,870,597	+37,136,000
Medical support and compliance	4,450,000	5,100,000	4,900,000	+450,000	-200,000
Advance appropriation, FY 2011	---	---	5,307,000	+5,307,000	+5,307,000
Subtotal	4,450,000	5,100,000	10,207,000	+5,757,000	+5,107,000
Medical facilities	5,029,000	4,693,000	4,893,000	-136,000	+200,000
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 111-5)	1,000,000	---	---	-1,000,000	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2011	---	---	5,740,000	+5,740,000	+5,740,000
Subtotal	6,029,000	4,693,000	10,633,000	+4,604,000	+5,940,000
Medical and prosthetic research	510,000	580,000	580,000	+70,000	---
Medical care cost recovery collections:					
Offsetting collections	-2,544,000	-2,954,000	-2,954,000	-410,000	---
Appropriations (indefinite)	2,544,000	2,954,000	2,954,000	+410,000	---
Total, Veterans Health Administration	41,958,903	45,077,500	93,260,500	+51,301,597	+48,183,000
Appropriations	(40,958,903)	(45,077,500)	(45,077,500)	(+4,118,597)	---
Emergency appropriations	(1,000,000)	---	---	(-1,000,000)	---
Advance appropriations, FY 2011	---	---	(48,183,000)	(+48,183,000)	(+48,183,000)
National Cemetery Administration					
National Cemetery Administration	230,000	242,000	250,000	+20,000	+8,000
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 111-5)	50,000	---	---	-50,000	---
Total, National Cemetery Administration	280,000	242,000	250,000	-30,000	+8,000
Emergency appropriations	(50,000)	---	---	(-50,000)	---
Departmental Administration					
General operating expenses	1,801,867	2,218,500	2,083,700	+281,833	-134,800
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 111-5)	150,000	---	---	-150,000	---
Subtotal	1,951,867	2,218,500	2,083,700	+131,833	-134,800

Military Construction - Veterans Affairs - and Related Agencies Appropriations Act - FY 2010 (H.R. 3082)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2010 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Information technology systems	2,489,391	3,307,000	3,307,000	+817,609	---
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 111-5)	50,000	---	---	-50,000	---
Subtotal	2,539,391	3,307,000	3,307,000	+767,609	---
Office of Inspector General	87,818	107,000	107,000	+19,182	---
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 111-5)	1,000	---	---	-1,000	---
Subtotal	88,818	107,000	107,000	+18,182	---
Construction, major projects	923,382	1,194,000	1,194,000	+270,618	---
Construction, minor projects	741,534	600,000	726,800	-14,734	+126,800
Grants for construction of State extended care facilities	175,000	85,000	85,000	-90,000	---
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 111-5)	150,000	---	---	-150,000	---
Subtotal	325,000	85,000	85,000	-240,000	---
Grants for the construction of State veterans cemeteries	42,000	42,000	42,000	---	---
Total, Departmental Administration	6,611,992	7,553,500	7,545,500	+933,508	-8,000
Appropriations	(6,260,992)	(7,553,500)	(7,545,500)	(+1,284,508)	(-8,000)
Emergency appropriations	(351,000)	---	---	(-351,000)	---
Administrative Provisions					
IRS income verification	-2,000	---	---	+2,000	---
Sec. 160 Filipino Veterans Compensation Fund (P.L. 110-329) (emergency)	198,000	---	---	-198,000	---
Total, title II	95,948,057	108,860,775	157,043,775	+61,095,718	+48,183,000
Appropriations	(94,349,057)	(108,860,775)	(108,860,775)	(+14,511,718)	---
Emergency appropriations	(1,599,000)	---	---	(-1,599,000)	---
Rescissions (emergency appropriations)	---	---	---	---	---
Advance appropriations, FY 2011	---	---	(48,183,000)	(+48,183,000)	(+48,183,000)
(Limitation on direct loans)	(3,680)	(2,798)	(2,798)	(-882)	---
Discretionary	(49,205,132)	(53,039,103)	(101,222,103)	(+52,016,971)	(+48,183,000)
Mandatory	(46,742,925)	(55,821,672)	(55,821,672)	(+9,078,747)	---
TITLE III - RELATED AGENCIES					
American Battle Monuments Commission					
Salaries and expenses	59,470	60,300	61,800	+2,330	+1,500
(By transfer)	(500)	---	---	(-500)	---
Foreign currency fluctuations account	17,100	17,100	17,100	---	---
Total, American Battle Monuments Commission	76,570	77,400	78,900	+2,330	+1,500
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims					
Salaries and expenses	30,975	27,115	27,115	-3,860	---
Department of Defense - Civil					
Cemeterial Expenses, Army					
Salaries and expenses	36,730	37,200	42,500	+5,770	+5,300

Military Construction - Veterans Affairs - and Related Agencies Appropriations Act - FY 2010 (H.R. 3082)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2010 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Armed Forces Retirement Home					
Operation and maintenance	54,985	62,000	62,000	+7,015	---
Capital program	8,025	72,000	72,000	+63,975	---
Total, Armed Forces Retirement Home	63,010	134,000	134,000	+70,990	---
Total, title III	207,285	275,715	282,515	+75,230	+6,800
(By transfer)	(500)	---	---	(-500)	---
Grand total	126,810,267	133,487,510	181,903,656	+55,093,389	+48,416,146
Appropriations	(119,689,095)	(132,082,526)	(132,406,972)	(+12,717,877)	(+324,446)
Rescissions	(-83,170)	---	(-85,300)	(-2,130)	(-85,300)
Emergency appropriations	(4,479,000)	---	---	(-4,479,000)	---
Advance appropriations, FY 2011	---	---	(48,183,000)	(+48,183,000)	(+48,183,000)
Overseas contingency operations	(2,725,342)	(1,404,984)	(1,398,984)	(-1,326,358)	(-6,000)
(By transfer)	(500)	---	---	(-500)	---
(Limitation on direct loans)	(3,680)	(2,798)	(2,798)	(-882)	---
Scorekeeping adjustments:					
Emergency appropriation defense	-2,880,000	---	---	+2,880,000	---
Emergency appropriation non-defense	-1,599,000	---	---	+1,599,000	---
Veterans Health Administration:					
Less advance appropriations	---	---	-48,183,000	-48,183,000	-48,183,000
Overseas contingency operations (P.L. 111-32)	---	---	6,000	+6,000	+6,000
Total, adjustments	-4,479,000	---	-48,177,000	-43,698,000	-48,177,000
Total (including adjustments)	122,331,267	133,487,510	133,726,656	+11,395,389	+239,146

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAMP. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is, indeed, a high privilege and a great honor to stand on the floor today with Chairman EDWARDS and present the 2010 Military Construction Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Indeed, this bill is not about us, it's not about our individual districts. It's about them, those that volunteer to serve our country in the uniform of our Armed Forces, past, present, and future, their willingness to stand between a threat and our civilian population, extend freedom from this generation to the next, and join the thousands of others that have preserved our freedoms and protected our way of life.

This is a very important bill; it is worthy of our support. It is a bipartisan product. As the chairman said earlier, this bill is not pushed by lobbyists or outside interests other than the veteran service organizations and the families of those that are serving and have served.

It is our honor, and frankly our sacred duty, to make sure that we give these great Americans what they deserve and what they need. I think if you ask our men and women in harm's way today, what can we do for you, the first thing they would say is take care of our families while we're serving and, when we come home, support us. This bill does that, and I'm grateful for that.

I can't thank Chairman EDWARDS enough. He is diligent, he is fair, he is honorable, and he is totally committed to these men and women in uniform. And we are working together to guarantee the efficiencies of these resources and the investments that we're making.

This bill funds the needs for military construction and family housing for our troops, their families, the quality of life construction projects, and provides funding for all the programs that the Veterans Administration and related agencies have asked for in their budget request. This bill literally touches every soldier, sailor, aviator, marine, military spouse, child, every veteran who participates in VA programs; and it takes good care of our national cemeteries and monuments that are funded in this bill as well.

We worked together through 18 hearings. We asked a lot of questions; we had very good witnesses. So a totally cooperative effort.

I want to thank all of our subcommittees from both sides. Specifically today I want to thank Mr. FARR and Mr. CRENSHAW, who really supported the chairman and myself through this process, Mr. FARR as vice chairman, Mr. CRENSHAW when I could not be there on certain days; outstanding work by them.

□ 1115

This bill reflects bipartisan input and cooperation, and that is the tradition of this bill, and we have honored that tradition and worked very well together, and it truly is a bipartisan bill.

I want to just talk about a couple of initiatives in the bill without going into specific numbers because Chairman EDWARDS has already highlighted many of the numbers.

The Guard and Reserve initiative is extremely important because we have been fighting terrorists since September the 11th, 2001. The op tempo of our National Guard and Reserve forces remains at a very high level. It's very likely to remain that way for the foreseeable future. The Guard and Reserve have had more than 719,000 activations since September the 11th, including the current level of 142,000. So I'm pleased to join Chairman EDWARDS in supporting the additional $200 million in this bill to address urgent unfunded requirements for the Army and Air National Guard and for the Reserve forces of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

On BRAC, the BRAC 2005 account in the President's budget request is $7.5 billion. The department and the services have testified that it's going to be absolutely critical for them to have this funding on October 1 of this year in order to meet their September 15, 2011, statutory deadline to complete BRAC 2005. I will continue to work with Chairman EDWARDS to make sure that this gets done on time. However, the House-passed defense authorization bill cuts $350 million from this BRAC account for this year on the cost of the provision that requires prevailing wage equivalency with Hawaii for military construction on Guam related to the relocation of our Marines from Japan. The CBO has scored this provision as costing $10 billion over the next 10 years. That's twice the amount of the entire relocation from Japan to Guam, and this is the largest Milcon investment in a generation, and it's really important that we address this issue throughout this process. I spoke at the Rules Committee yesterday to raise this issue. We have spoken with the leadership of the House. We have spoken with the leadership of the Congress to say this is a problem and it has to be addressed as this bill moves forward and as the process moves forward because we simply can't afford to double the cost of the relocation from Japan to Guam based on a prevailing wage issue. It's too much. Too much. We've got to resolve it.

On the advanced appropriations issue, the chairman spoke eloquently about this. We reached a bipartisan agreement. I am very pleased with the way they allowed Ranking Member Mr. LEWIS and me to weigh in because none of us want to retreat from our constitutional prerogative or obligation we have to oversee all the funding on an annual basis. However, we share the goal of making sure that the VA has the money they need in a timely manner and can make decisions that maximize their effectiveness because it's a big bureaucracy, and when the money is in doubt, the changes and reforms necessary to improve efficiency can't be met. The bill contains $48.2 billion for advanced appropriations for medical services, medical support and compliance, and medical facilities, which is $3.7 billion above the amount recommended in the fiscal year 2010 bill on these accounts.

On VA spending I continue to be concerned, as is Ranking Member LEWIS, about the ability of the VA to absorb large funding increases provided in this bill. I'm very pleased to support the increases, but it is absolutely our job to make sure not just that we raise the funding levels but that the money is well spent, spent in a timely manner, that it's effectively spent, and that there is accountability through the entire process. So we continue to raise this issue. I think there is a bipartisan commitment to this, and I want to point that out as well.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WAMP. I'm happy to yield to the ranking member.

Mr. LEWIS of California. It had not been my intention to speak on this measure in order to save time, but you're making a point that's really very fundamental. I would like to commend both of you, the chairman and the ranking member, for the fabulous job here.

But, most importantly, some years ago I had the opportunity to Chair the VA Appropriations Subcommittee. During those years, we were most concerned that, while there was bipartisan support on the House floor and funding rose for veterans, that the various organizations that support funding and veterans here in Washington were not helping us much out there where the people really get their service at the veterans hospitals. There has been a radical change in our ability to make sure that service is being delivered effectively. And it's due to the work of the two of you and the bipartisan effort here that we have had this success. So thank you.

Mr. WAMP. Reclaiming my time, on this same front, the information technology account is a significant increase, $833 million above the 2009 enacted level, an increase of $559 million above the 2009 level when the reprogramming action that was approved is taken into consideration. It is a large, unchecked spending increase to one account, and the GAO and the OIG and others have documented the VA's inability to effectively manage these resources. I agree with Secretary Shinseki when he testified that he's going to need IT to be a key part of his plan to transform the VA. However, with the documented concerns about this account, it remains doubtful that this will occur.

Not more than 3 hours after our subcommittee markup, the staff participated in a briefing at the request of VA's Assistant Secretary for IT. The

purpose of this briefing was to provide the committee an update on a thorough analysis that the VA was undertaking to review their IT portfolio. The VA reported that there are a number of IT programs that are more than 13 months behind schedule and more than 50 percent over budget. We asked for the list of these projects along with the 2009 and 2010 costs for these programs. More than 3 weeks have now passed, and the VA has yet to provide the list to show the costs for these troubled IT projects. That is an example of how increasing the funding can be very helpful if the checks are in place to make sure that the money gets to where it's supposed to go. So it's not just increasing the funding; it's making sure that the veterans benefit from this increased funding, to make sure that the bureaucracy of the VA is held accountable, to make sure that we insist on efficiencies and that the money flows down in a timely manner.

And then the National Cemetery Administration—I want to note the increased funding for this account, $20 million above the 2009 enacted level of $230 million, and that will go a long way to allow the VA to meet the current needs as well as giving the ability to look at cemetery expansion in areas where expansion is needed. That includes Chattanooga, where we have a very historic national cemetery.

Without mentioning names, because the chairman already has, I can't say enough about this professional staff, those behind me, those behind him. It's an honor for all of us to be part of this team. I don't think there is a higher privilege that any of us could ask for than to serve the men and women in uniform of our Armed Forces past, present, and future.

Madam Chairman, as I conclude, I want to thank Mr. LEWIS and Mr. OBEY, who serve as the distinguished ranking member and chairman of this committee. This is a good bill. It deserves our support. I look forward to continuing our work through the conference committee, and I want to encourage Chairman EDWARDS and Chairman OBEY to insist that we have a conference committee, that we meet with the Senate, that we look eye to eye and we resolve any of our differences. I think that is the regular order that we desire to return to.

Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, if there is a single unsung hero in this Congress on behalf of America's veterans, it's the gentleman from Wisconsin, the chairman of the full Appropriations Committee, Mr. OBEY. And for that reason, I yield 2 minutes to him for any remarks he would care to make.

Mr. OBEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I simply have one question for the gentleman from Tennessee. Are you really sure you want us to meet with the Senate?

Mr. WAMP. I'm running for Governor, sir.

Mr. OBEY. Does that mean you're running away from the Senate?

Madam Chair, let me simply congratulate both the gentleman from Tennessee and the gentleman from Texas for the fine work they have done on this bill. I think every Member of the House can be proud of what has happened in terms of our delivering of benefits to veterans on the health care front and on the education front.

Over the past 3 years or so, we have had very significant increases in veterans health benefits. We also last year passed a landmark, an historic, expansion of the GI Bill education benefits by passage of the Webb amendment. In the supplemental appropriation bill this year, we enhanced the ability of spouses and children of veterans to receive transfer benefits to allow them to use the education benefits that would otherwise have accrued to a veteran. There had been a hole in the law which did not include the children of veterans who had died, and that has been corrected, and now this bill goes a whole lot more down the road in dealing with their needs.

When we go into wars, we have an obligation to provide all the support that's necessary to the warriors during and after the wars, and that's in part what this bill tries to do. And I congratulate both gentlemen for the work they have done and urge support for the bill.

Mr. WAMP. Madam Chairman, at this time I yield 3 minutes to the former chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and the current ranking member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee who also serves as a very valuable member of our subcommittee, Mr. YOUNG of Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Madam Chairman, I just want today to start by saying most of us in our jobs have parts of our job that we like better than other parts of our job. Serving on this subcommittee is part of the job that I really like, not only because of the importance of the subject, dealing with and providing for the members of our military and those veterans who have served in the past in the military and, as Mr. WAMP said, those who will serve in the future, but also because of the way this subcommittee does its work. With the leadership of Chairman EDWARDS and the leadership of Ranking Member ZACH WAMP, this subcommittee works together for the good of this country. And while we may have some objection to the process on how appropriations bills are brought to the floor without totally open rules, you will be hard-pressed to find something wrong with this bill or some reason to vote against this bill. It's just not there.

There are some problems in the Veterans Administration, which is a huge bureaucracy, that can't be solved by money. The money that the committee has made available adequately meets the requirements as proposed to us by the administration.

There is something else that this committee does that seldom gets mentioned. And I want to just take a brief comment and talk about—General Colin Powell was visiting in Europe. General Powell was asked a rather critical question that, in effect, the question criticized the United States for our arrogance and how we do things that are not good for other people. And General Powell thought for a minute, and he said, You know, the only thing that we have asked from you in Europe is enough ground to bury our dead.

There are 22 American cemeteries in Europe. The subcommittee has responsibility to provide funding to maintain those military cemeteries, and they do a good job and they are beautiful. And for those Members who haven't had a chance to visit them, you really should.

□ 1130

There are 22 American cemeteries, graves of 106,757 American soldiers who lost their lives freeing the people of Europe from the oppression of Hitler's Nazis.

This subcommittee has that responsibility and does a really good job, and I am proud to work with CHET EDWARDS and I am proud to work with ZACH WAMP and all the other members of the subcommittee and the staff who are so dedicated to meeting our mission, to doing the job that we were responsible for doing.

As I want to say to our chairman and to my ranking member, this is the part of the job that I really like around here. There are a lot of other parts that I like too, but I really like this one. Working with you two gentlemen is just very, very special.

This bill appropriates $108.9 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs for 2010, a 15.4 percent increase in the funds for veterans medical and services available this year. This bill funds the expanded GI Bill benefits authorized last year by the 110th Congress, it funds an additional 1,200 claims processors to reduce the backlog of veterans' disability claims, and it expands programs to help homeless veterans.

Our subcommittee also reaffirms its longstanding support for veterans medical care programs by providing $34.7 billion for VA medical services, a 13 percent increase over current year funding. The members of our subcommittee also approved a new method of funding veterans medical care to ensure that the uncertainty of our legislative cycle does not negatively impact the ability of the Department of Veterans Affairs to plan for and deliver the best in medical care for those who served our nation. In addition to providing funding for VA medical care in Fiscal Year 2010, it also provides advanced funding for the following year, Fiscal Year 2011.

Our committee also continues to place the highest priority on providing the best care and services for our service members who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan and have

been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. One of our nation's centers for the treatment of PTSD and TBI is the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Bay Pines, which I have the privilege to represent. Included in the bill we consider today is $96,800,000 to build a state-of-the-art medical facility at Bay Pines to better screen our returning service members for mental health problems and to provide the state-of-the-art facilities in which to treat them. The Committee approved my request for the design and engineering funding for this project last year to accelerate the construction of this vitally needed unit.

We also include in the bill $371,300,000 for a new VA medical facility in Orlando that will benefit veterans throughout the state. Florida continues to experience one of the largest inflows of veterans of any state in our nation. All of Florida's VA medical facilities feel the strain of a growing caseload, especially during the winter months. The construction of this long anticipated VA hospital in central Florida will ease that burden on all the existing hospitals.

Madam Chair, this legislation honors those who wore the uniform in the defense of our nation and freedom here and throughout the world. We also honor those who wear the uniform today by ensuring that they live and work in the best facilities today whether it be on U.S. soil or on our bases in the furthest points of the world.

This includes the facilities for the forces leading the worldwide battle against terrorism which is being directed by U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, which neighbors the 10th Congressional District I represent.

Just this week, I joined General David Petraeus, the Commander of U.S. Central Command, to break ground on a new headquarters facility that was supported by this committee and for which this committee approved my request four years ago to accelerate the funding to begin its design and engineering. Our bill this year includes $21,000,000 to accelerate construction of a Consolidated Communications Facility to support the Joint Components of Central and Special Operations Command at MacDill. Communications is critical for both commands to manage operations that are underway half a world away. This facility will ensure that our war fighters will have the most up-to-date and secure communication capabilities for them to do their job.

This legislation also includes $15,300,000 for the Central Command Commandant Facility which will coordinate air operations for Central Command's commanding officers and support staff to enable them to deploy rapidly and efficiently. This is imperative given the geographic distance and the number of crises that continue in the Middle East and Southwest Asia.

This facility will provide a secure facility to accommodate the Joint Special Operations Air Component, train increasing numbers of personnel, and store authorized equipment. In addition it will provide a Sensitive Compartmented Intelligence Facility to conduct analysis and assessments to provide Central Command with accurate and comprehensive situational awareness for our forward deployed forces.

Another $7,000,000 is included for a much needed Child Development Center to care for the children of our service members who work around the clock to support their missions. This facility is designed to accommodate and care for the many families of our many working parents at MacDill Air Force Base. And $16,000,000 is included here for a new dormitory to provide unaccompanied enlisted personnel with safe, energy efficient housing.

Madam Chair, this is a good bill. It fulfills our nation's promise and commitment to care for our nation's veterans, those who serve; those have served in the past, and those who will serve our nation in the future.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I consider it an honor to be even able to speak after Mr. YOUNG, who has committed his lifetime and his heart to our servicemen and -women and our veterans. He and his wife commit every week to going out to our DOD and VA hospitals to let those great Americans know that their sacrifices are not forgotten. I want to thank him for inspiring all of us to remember the sacrifice our troops and veterans have made.

With that, it's a privilege for me to recognize the vice chair of our subcommittee, who has been a leader at every step of the way on so many issues on behalf of our veterans, Mr. FARR of California, for 2 minutes.

Mr. FARR. Thank you very much, Chairman EDWARDS, for yielding.

Madam Chairman, I just want to rise to speak on this bill, and I just want to say something following Congressman YOUNG's points.

What I love about this committee, more than any other committee I have ever served on in the State legislature or here in Congress, I think it's the best listening committee I have ever been on. We listen to people, and what I call the felt needs, and we respond.

I think what we are so proud about is the fiscal year 2010 military construction and veterans spending bill responds to what we heard and addresses those issues. What I think is remarkably progressively happening in this country is that for the first time these two huge agencies, the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, are beginning to be seamless in a sense.

I mean, you can't be a veteran without going through the Department of Defense. And the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs Shinseki has said that the minute you enroll in the Department of Defense you are automatically enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs. So you are going to begin seeing this, rather than having these lost records and folders and everything that needs to be done, that it will be administratively clean.

What I also really appreciate about this committee that probably is not recognized is that we hear over and over again about the health care of our veterans. And I can't think of two more sensitive people than Chairman EDWARDS and Ranking Member WAMP and our colleague on the committee, PATRICK KENNEDY, that listened so profoundly to the needs of mental health care for veterans, not only those coming back with posttraumatic stress syndrome from Iraq and Afghanistan, but we have about 270,000 veterans that sleep on the streets of America.

That's the biggest embarrassment that this country has. We have not been that good at taking care of them. This budget puts $800 million more in mental health and does the outreach for homeless veterans.

I am very proud of that and would urge support of the legislation.

Mr. WAMP. Madam Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to ANDER CRENSHAW from Jacksonville, Florida, who would be the vice ranking member if there were such a position, but he is an incredibly valuable asset on our subcommittee and has done just an extraordinary job this year.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I thank the gentleman, Mr. WAMP, for yielding the time. I thank him for his hard work in the subcommittee and working with our Chairman EDWARDS, thank you for your leadership and your bipartisan spirit. And thank you both for involving all the members of the subcommittee and drafting this legislation that I think we can all support.

I ran for Congress in the first place because I believe the number one responsibility of the Federal Government is to protect American lives, and I think the best way to keep America safe is to keep America strong. But I have been on this subcommittee now for 7 years, and I think we have a tremendous responsibility not only to modernize and upgrade these bases all around the world that we oversee, but we have a responsibility to make sure that we take care of the men and women that volunteer to defend our country. Nobody forces them to do that. Nobody forces them to go into harm's way. They do it because they care about America. And I think we have a responsibility to take care of them, and that's what this bill does.

I think in terms of housing, there was a time when people that served in our military lived in substandard housing, something they couldn't be proud of. Through using some of the private sector ideas like privatization, now over 90 percent of our military men and women live in adequate housing that they can be proud of.

When they go off to deployment, they can be sure that their families are going to be taken care of back home with a good quality of life. They are going to have a peace of mind when they are gone and when they are fighting for us.

And when they come home and they leave the service, now they know they have a Veterans Administration that cares about them. This bill continues the work that we have done to make sure that we have more clinics, to make sure we have more doctors and nurses, more people to process those claims. They don't have to wait in line. We are making some giant strides.

And, finally, this bill, as has been pointed out, deals with national cemeteries, to give those veterans a final resting place that they so richly deserve.

And I know in my home district in Jacksonville, Florida, we opened a new veterans cemetery this year. And I don't think I have ever been more proud to be a Member of Congress, to be a part of that ceremony, to see the sense of gratitude in these people's eyes knowing they are going to have a place, a final resting place because of the way they have defended our country.

Madam Chairman, I think this is a bill we can all support. I am again thankful to our chairman, our ranking member, and all the members of the subcommittee for the work that we put in that we can be so proud of, so I urge adoption.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I would like to recognize a member of our committee, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR), an Army veteran who has been a strong voice on behalf of our veterans and military, for 1 minute.

Mr. SALAZAR. I want to take a moment to recognize both Chairman EDWARDS and Ranking Member WAMP for their valiant effort in putting this bill together. I don't think there are any greater champions for military veterans and their families. All 17.5 million in the United States should applaud the chairman and the ranking member for their diligent fight.

Madam Chair, I would like to bring one specific project in the bill forward and not only thank the chairman and the ranking member, but also Secretary Shinseki and President Obama and the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Mr. FILNER, for including the $119 million for the new Fitzsimmons Veterans Hospital in Denver, Colorado.

This facility will provide full service to half a million veterans currently residing in my home State of Colorado and many across the Rocky Mountain west. This new facility will be open and begin serving veterans by 2013. The 200-bed hospital will reach over a million square feet in size and include 30 special beds for spinal cord injuries.

I am proud that after over a decade of waiting, the veterans of the Rocky Mountain west and my State will finally benefit from this state-of-the-art facility.

Mr. WAMP. Madam Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from Indiana and the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Mr. BUYER, for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. BUYER. I want to commend my friend Mr. WAMP and Chairman EDWARDS for your strong advocacy on behalf of America's veterans.

Mr. Chairman, last year, as you may remember, I offered an amendment that would have provided direct funding for VA to advance projects at 16 VA medical centers that were identified for the use of solar photovoltaic roof applications, but the amendment was ruled out of order on a technical issue.

You and I have had several conversations about renewable energy issues and, however, working with the Secretary, as I had indicated, I was able to ensure that the VA funded these projects with the overall amount that included the fiscal year 2009 appropriations act, of which you had no objection.

Subsequently, at the beginning of this Congress, with the prospect of a forthcoming stimulus bill, I had met with the Secretary of the VA on renewable energy projects to benefit our veterans and to provide additional funding to invest in these renewable energy projects at the VA. I was pleased the stimulus bill provided the VA with more than $1.4 billion. That's almost half a billion more than what I even submitted in the request, so I thank the chairman.

And the VA stimulus spending for the additional 31 solar photovoltaic feasibility studies also included studies for cogeneration, of which the chairman must have done, along with wind and geothermal projects. And based on those study results, the VA plans to fund up to eight solar projects, nine cogenerations, six wind, and five geothermal using stimulus dollars.

Mr. Chairman, the VA also expects to implement the remaining 23 solar projects, 29 cogeneration, 4 wind and 4 geothermal in fiscal year 2010, subject to the feasibility determinations.

With this in mind, I want to ask my friend: Do I have your assurance that the bill before us would provide the sufficient funds for the VA to move forward with these renewable energy projects?

I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I first want to thank Mr. BUYER for taking the lead and for fighting to ensure that alternative sources of energy are utilized by the VA. This is an important issue and initiative.

Our bill does take into consideration this important need, and VA plans to fund a significant number of renewable energy projects with resources in this bill. I want to assure you that I will emphasize to the VA the importance of this effort.

I recognize, and I think this is critical, the result of your efforts, that every dollar saved through energy conservation in the VA will result in an additional dollar going directly to better health care and benefits for veterans.

I further look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that the VA appropriately employs the use of solar technology to reduce energy costs and to benefit our environment.

Mr. WAMP. I want to thank the chairman for this commitment and express my strong support for funding these renewable energy projects, compliment Mr. BUYER for his tenacity and perseverance here on this front, because I know that we can reduce VA's high energy costs with the use of these new renewable energy technologies. I look forward to working with each of you as we continue to advance renewable energy projects at VA facilities.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WAMP. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. BUYER. I would thank the leadership of Mr. EDWARDS and Mr. WAMP for your commitment for renewable energy within the VA.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) who has been the leading voice in this subcommittee and the House for improving mental health care services for America's veterans and services to homeless veterans.

Mr. KENNEDY. I want to thank the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, Chairman Edwards, for his leadership on what has been an amazing increase in funding for veterans in this country. As chairman of the Appropriations Committee, we have seen in the last cycle the largest single increase in veterans funding in the 76-year history of the Veterans Administration in the last cycle. And, as such, that has carried over till this cycle and will in the succeeding years ahead as we continue to increase the veterans appropriations.

And, again, this year, we are seeing another large, large increase in the veterans spending, including increases in veterans mental health. And that, my friends, is what I am so pleased to see, especially in the wake of the terrible tragedy at Camp Victory, where we saw a murder-suicide, once again highlighting the terrible tragedy that so many of our veterans are facing with the psychological wounds that they are facing and the combat that they are so readily seeing on a day-today basis. They are not only suffering the physical wounds of war but the psychological and mental wounds of war.

I would like to acknowledge the ranking member, ZACH WAMP, for the incredible support that he has given to our veterans in the area of mental health services.

We have seen in this bill $4.6 billion for mental health services in this bill. We have seen an additional $3.2 billion for homeless veterans. It's a tragedy, as my friend SAM FARR said, that the single largest percentage of the homeless population in this country are veterans. That should not be the case. In this bill, we seek to try to end that situation.

Madam Chairman, I am also pleased to see that this committee responds to the veterans of America in providing advance funding for veterans funding for the succeeding years, so that veterans do not have to wait on Congress to provide those funds, and that we provide an additional $48 billion in the 2011 budget.

□ 1145

And that, my friends, is a result of General Shinseki, the VA Secretary's strong advocacy and this President's commitment to our veterans to make sure that they don't have to wait—they don't have to wait for a budget in order to know that they're going to get the funds they need to take care of our veterans.

For these and all the reasons, I'm so proud to be part of this committee and to see that this country lives up to its promise to our Nation's veterans. And I thank the chairman for all the good work that he does, and I thank the ranking member for all the good work that he does. And I'm proud to be on this committee.

Mr. WAMP. Madam Chairman, I yield myself 3 minutes and yield to the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. CASTLE. I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding. Madam Chairman, I'd like to speak about the Dover Air Force Base and what it's doing with respect to its port mortuary.

For more than 50 years, Dover Air Force Base has been home to the United States military's port mortuary. It's here that Dover's expert staff receives from theater the remains of fallen American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines and conducts a solemn, dignified transfer from the aircraft to the port mortuary. The base and the community in Dover take this responsibility very seriously and treat all fallen servicemembers and their families with dignity, honor, and respect.

As you know, in March of this year the Department of Defense announced a new policy regarding media access to the dignified transfer of remains at the Dover Air Force Base. Under the new policy, the decision regarding media coverage is made on an individual basis by the families of the fallen. The new policy also expands the Department's support to those family members wishing to attend the dignified transfer by paying for travel to Dover and increasing the availability of grief counseling and chaplain support services.

The immediate result of this policy change is that many more families of fallen soldiers from across the country travel to Dover to attend. Unfortunately, the wing commander and his staff at Dover Air Force Base have expressed concern they do not have adequate chapel facilities to provide for on-base memorial services, worship, and counseling. This lack of chapel facilities would be particularly evident in the unfortunate event of a mass casualty situation in the theater of operations.

The base has submitted a proposal to build a new main base chapel center to include private space for the expressed purpose of receiving grieving families. I understand that the office of the Secretary of Defense is supportive of this project, and I look forward to working with the committee at the earliest possible opportunity to solve this pressing matter.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Will the ranking member yield?

Mr. WAMP. I yield to the chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. The gentleman from Delaware has raised a very important issue, and as someone who once represented Fort Hood, Texas, through three combat deployments, I strongly believe in the need to treat our fallen and their families with the utmost dignity and respect.

So it will be a privilege for me to work with the gentleman on this issue. And I am hopeful that we can rectify this problem by the time we get through conference.

Mr. WAMP. Reclaiming my time, I stand with you, Mr. Chairman, and will work with Mr. CASTLE as well to resolve this matter in conference.

I yield to Mr. CASTLE.

Mr. CASTLE. I thank both the distinguished chairman of the committee and the ranking member, Mr. EDWARDS and Mr. WAMP, for their work on this legislation as well as discussing this particular issue. I look forward to working with you and all of the servicemembers and families who would be involved with this, and hopefully we can work it out in the near future.

Mr. WAMP. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I'd like to yield 1 minute to an active voice on our subcommittee on behalf of veterans and our troops, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. I thank the chairman. Madam Chair, this bill addresses one of the biggest concerns that I and many others have, and that is homeless veterans. The bill provides $420 million over last year's level for assistance and treatment for homeless veterans.

Tonight, Madam Chair, 154,000 veterans will go to bed without a home. One out of four homeless men served in the United States military at some point. They fought for our country, they came home, but they don't have a house. They served in jungles, they served in cities, they served in deserts and bases on the high seas, and they're sleeping on sidewalks this evening in America.

That is a national shame. But thanks to the bipartisanship of this subcommittee, we are making a bold leap on behalf of those homeless veterans. We are making the investments necessary to stop this outrage and to do what every nation must do, and that is to treat its veterans as heroes, and in this case, heroes with a home. I thank the gentleman and the ranking member for their cooperation.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield myself 2 minutes and yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) for the purposes of a colloquy.

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Chairman, I rise to enter into a colloquy with my dear friend, the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee, regarding language contained in the House report, Veterans Affairs and Related Appropriations Bill for 2010.

I'm concerned the language could have the effect of postponing activation of a much-needed clinic for our veterans in Toledo. Clearly, it is not in the best interest of our veterans to postpone activation of a new clinic that will better address a higher workload, especially in light of the increasing numbers of veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I yield to my good friend.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I thank the gentleman. I agree with the gentleman that our veterans deserve quality health care. It's crucial to move forward to get the new clinic operational as soon as possible. The VA is recognized as a leader in quality health care, and we want to do everything possible to enhance that reputation.

Mr. DINGELL. To continue, the existing clinic is undersized for its current caseload. The VA has been working for several years to establish larger replacements. It is my understanding if we move forward with the current plans, which have been reviewed by the majority of the impacted veterans service organizations, the VA is prepared to have a new, larger LEED-certified clinic in the fall of 2011.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DINGELL. I will yield to the gentleman.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. It's of the utmost importance that we address these concerns in a timely and expeditious manner so we can continue to get the quality health care the VA provides to the veterans in question.

I know that this matter has also been of concern to the veterans in the district of the gentlewoman from Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR, and I know that she wants their concerns addressed as well.

The language in the committee report is not designed to needlessly delay the activation of the Toledo clinic, but simply to ensure some of the concerns raised by veterans are responded to.

Mr. DINGELL. I want to also express great respect and affection for the gentlewoman from Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR. As a veteran myself, I couldn't agree more that we need more quality care for our veterans in a timely manner. As already mentioned, given the increased workload because of the veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, doubling the size of the existing clinic will help us to meet that goal.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAMP. Madam Chair, may I inquire as to the time remaining on each side.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee controls 6¼ minutes. The gentleman from Texas controls 7½ minutes.

Mr. WAMP. I continue to reserve.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield myself 2 minutes, and I'd like to yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) for the purposes of a colloquy.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the great work that this chairman does on behalf of veterans. He's a true friend and has done so much for so many veterans, and I appreciate that.

Mr. Chairman, I just want you to know that I went to college on the GI Bill, and I voted for the Post-9/11 GI Bill with my experience in the GI Bill and in school and what it did for me in mind. And I did so to ensure that all veterans would have the same access to this great educational opportunity that I had.

Unfortunately, today in California, California veterans are being denied this important chance to get the college education so that they can have a better future. According to the Department of Veterans Administration, veterans living in California are entitled to zero dollars toward their private tuition bill, simply because California charges ''fees,'' not ''tuition,'' to attend college.

So because zero ''tuition'' is charged in California, according to the VA's tortured logic, zero tuition can be paid to veterans seeking to attend private schools in California.

This simple semantic difference means that nearly 5,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans residing in California, veterans who served our Nation honorably, are not eligible to receive financial assistance to attend the college of their choice. This is unlike every other Iraq and Afghanistan veteran in the other 49 States.

My California colleagues and I sent a letter to the VA requesting the Department fix this issue administratively. Six weeks later—6 weeks later they sent a two-paragraph response denying—denying our request.

This is not fair to our veterans, and Congress should not stand by as these brave men and women are denied the benefits they have earned.

I'd now like to yield to my colleague from California (Mr. MCKEON).

Mr. MCKEON. I thank the gentleman for yielding. As the gentleman and I both know, this spring the VA released its Post-9/11 GI Bill tuition benefit rates. Unfortunately, the VA has misinterpreted the intent of Congress and by doing so will prevent veterans from attending private institutions in California.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I yield myself 1 additional minute.

Mr. MCKEON. By doing so, they will prevent veterans attending private institutions of higher education in California.

Certainly, when my home State enacted free in-State tuition, they didn't anticipate the VA would use that to restrict our vets from attending private universities as they are allowed to do in 49 other States under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

It's important that we provide Californians parity by enacting legislation like H.R. 2474 that the gentleman from California and I introduced in May. This legislation, which has near unanimous support from our delegation, allows veterans in California to use their full fee benefit towards tuition and fee expenses.

As the gentleman knows, it's important we act quickly, as this program begins implementation on August 1, 2009. Without action, many veterans could be unpleasantly surprised when they receive no tuition assistance.

Can the chairman assure us that this exclusion of California veterans from this important benefit was not the intent of the Congress in the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. The committee believes this exclusion of California veterans was not the intent of Congress when it passed the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The committee will ask the VA to work with the affected States, including the State of California, to ensure that veterans attending private institutions can participate fully in the Post-9/11 educational assistance program.

Mr. WAMP. I continue to reserve.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield myself 2 minutes and yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Let me thank Chairman EDWARDS for the excellent work he's done on this important bill, which funds our military construction projects and provides for the benefits and assistance that our Nation's veterans have so clearly earned.

It's out of concern for our Nation's veterans, specifically veterans in my home region of western Pennsylvania, that I requested this colloquy.

Pittsburgh's Veterans Benefits Administration employees are alleged to have manipulated an employee bonus reward system by delaying processing veterans' claims to my district to secure additional employee bonuses.

I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I'm familiar with the unfortunate situation that occurred in Pittsburgh. There was a report issued by the Office of Inspector General, correct?

Mr. ALTMIRE. That's right. I thank the chairman for his awareness of our concerns, and I would comment that this report issued by the Inspector General was insufficient given the gravity of these allegations. It failed to determine the sources of the problem. And I would suggest the Office of the Inspector General should conduct a second investigation of the Pittsburgh Veterans Benefits Administration employee misconduct in delaying benefit processing to receive bonuses and submit a more thorough report.

And this strikes me as particularly possible in light of the $19 million increase in the Inspector General's budget from last year.

I would yield again to the chairman.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Given the increases we've provided the Office of Inspector General at the VA, I look forward to working with the gentleman to see if we can't get the IG to take a second look at this serious issue in Pennsylvania.

□ 1200

Mr. WAMP. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of our time.

As we close the general debate on the 2010 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill, I want to tell a brief story because today the President of the United States is in Italy at the G–8; and photographs show him with my friend, the Prime Minister of Australia, Kevin Rudd, over the last couple of days. I have to tell you—I was with my friend, the Prime Minister, a couple of months ago here in Washington, and I asked him about the extraordinary challenges that our country faces today. And when I think of the men and women in uniform of our Armed Forces—and I know in my heart that that is truly what our country is all about, people volunteering, even sacrificing for each other—I said to Kevin Rudd, ''What's the attitude in Australia and around the world about these tremendous challenges that we face? And what do you think about the United States of America's ability to deal with these many challenges?'' He said, ''Well, we're optimistic. We've read your history. We understand how extraordinarily difficult it was during the Civil War and the great World Wars. We know that you came out of the Great Depression and that you have overcome extraordinary adversity. We've seen your free enterprise system, your brilliance and your innovation, and we know how resilient your people are. So we have great confidence that you will do it again,'' he said with a smile on his face.

And I would just say to all those men and women that served us in uniform—because they are the true patriots of our time. Yet again, they stand on the shoulders of those that have come before us, and our veterans are our most important citizens—that the burden is on us to extend our way of life and preserve freedom and to try to secure our liberty. This is the challenge of our time, and the world is counting on us. This bill goes a long way to meeting these needs, and we do truly stand at the water's edge together today. There is a lot of rancor and division in the House over process in other appropriations bills, but not today. Today we come together to do what's right for our men and women in uniform, for our military installations around the world under every command, for our veterans and their families and for the quality of life of our troops.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield myself 1 minute, and I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. CUELLAR. I thank the chairman for yielding to me.

Most of the claims from veterans of my district in south Texas are processed at the Houston VA Regional Office. A recent article in the Houston Chronicle, which I will submit for the RECORD, notes that nearly 18,000 veterans are waiting for their disability applications, and 26 percent of these claims have been pending over a year and a half. The number of claims on appeal from Houston are about 11,389, which is the highest in the country.

I have written a letter to the Secretary of the VA that brings attention to this problem, which I would like to be submitted into the RECORD. Mr. Chairman, I ask for your help to address this very serious problem so we can provide service to our veterans.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I share the gentleman's concerns and look forward to working with him and the VA to see that we address those problems. Veterans serving out of the Houston office should not have to wait the amount of time they are having to wait to receive their earned benefits.

BACKLOG OF VA CLAIMS IN HOUSTON ONE OF COUNTRY'S HIGHEST

HOUSTON.—Houston has one of the biggest backlogs and some of the longest waiting times in processing veterans' claims for disability benefits in the nation, according to the most recent data released by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Nearly 18,000 veterans are waiting for the Houston VA Regional Office to process their applications for disability benefits, the Houston Chronicle reported Saturday. Also, 26 percent of the Houston claims have been pending for more than half a year, compared with the national average of 21 percent.

Total claims in Houston, including nondisability compensations and pensions, add up to almost 24,000, with 24 percent pending for more than six months. That percentage is also higher than the national average.

The number of claims on appeal from Houston—11,389—is the highest in the country. ''The situation at VA's Houston office is among the worst in America,'' said Paul Sullivan, executive director of Veterans for Common Sense, a national advocacy group. ''Our veterans and their families deserve better.''

Nationwide, the total number of VA claims has increased from 638,648 this time last year to 723,152, as of June 20.

The number of claims received by the Houston VA Regional Office has increased by 26 percent since last year, more than twice the national average of 12 percent, said spokeswoman Valerie Martinez.

The Houston office has outsourced some of its claims processing to other VA facilities, and it has been authorized to hire 105 employees to improve efficiency, Martinez said.

At a congressional hearing in Washington last week, VA Deputy Undersecretary for Benefits Michael Walcoff said it is incorrect to designate all claims around the country as a backlog because the total number ''includes all claims received, whether pending for just a few hours or as long as six months.''

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 10, 2009.

Hon. ERIC K. SHINEKI,
Secretary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY SHINSEKI: Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. I look forward to working with you as we provide for those who have served our country admirably in the United States Military.

I was recently made aware of the attached article regarding veterans' disability benefit applications. Most of the disability benefit applications that come from my congressional district are processed at the Houston VA Regional Office. As the article explains, this office has one of the largest backlogs in the nation.

In the last two fiscal years, funds have been made available to hire more case workers in an effort to reduce the application backlogs present in many parts of our nation. I respectfully request that priority be given to the Houston VA Regional Office as workers are being allocated to address this important problem.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. If my staff or I may be of any more assistance, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Sincerely,

HENRY CUELLAR,
Member of Congress.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman controls 2 minutes.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Houston, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Let me thank the distinguished chairman and ranking member. Thank you very much, Mr. EDWARDS, for the grand work that you have done over the years in helping our soldiers. I rise today to support the underlying bill but to particularly focus on the medical services, the $34.7 billion; the mental health services, $4.6 billion; and the assistance for homeless vets, $3.2 billion. In my congressional district I work with these populations in particular, visiting them, listening to their situations; and as well, in my own community we have had a high number of suicides among active duty soldiers. I am very glad to announce that because of the legislation of this particular appropriation and the leadership of Chairman EDWARDS, we are now looking forward to having an offsite opportunity for a PTS treatment center; and as well it will be able to secure funding in the future for prospective TRICARE recipients. I am proud to have worked with Riverside Hospital. We need to be able to provide more services for PTSD, for the soldiers that are coming home. Believe it or not, Houston has been cited as the city that has the largest number of returnees or active duty soldiers who have been in Iraq and now, subsequently, will be coming from Afghanistan. Today as I speak, Madam Chair, we are burying a young seaman in my district. It is tragic, but we realize that we have to provide for these soldiers. I am very glad to support the rule and the underlying bill.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 remaining minute.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, as I finish this debate, I want to add in my thanks to others. I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS). He, along with Mr. YOUNG, has spent his entire congressional career dedicated to fighting for a strong national defense and for seeing that the men and women who provide that defense are respected in a meaningful way, and that once they have taken off our Nation's uniform, they continue to be respected as veterans. He has been an active leader as chairman of the committee, as ranking member of the committee and in our subcommittee deliberations has continued to be an active voice on behalf of our troops, our veterans and their families; and I thank the gentleman for that.

Finally, I think it's appropriate, Madam Chair, that the last word in this debate from my side are not the words of my own, but the words of America's veterans. I would like to include in the RECORD of this debate letters in support of this legislation from the DAV, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the AMVETS.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
Washington DC, July 9, 2009.

Hon. CHET EDWARDS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans' Affairs and Related Agencies, House Appropriations Commitee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN EDWARDS: On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and its Auxiliary, I would like to express our strongest support for H.R. 3082, the FY 2010 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, which provides record funding levels for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and benefits programs for fiscal year 2010.

Perhaps even more significant than the FY 2010 funding, the legislation also contains $48.2 billion in advance appropriations for VA medical care for fiscal year 2011. As you know, advance appropriations for VA health care has been the highest legislative priority for DAV and many other veterans service organizations in recent years. We applaud you, Chairman Obey, House Leadership and other Members whose support led to its inclusion in this bill.

Once enacted into law, advance appropriations for VA medical care will prevent budget stalemates from threatening the quality and timeliness of veterans health care services, a problem that has plagued VA for decades. With this crucial budget reform in place, VA will have the time and assurance necessary to effectively plan how to meet the health care needs of our nation's sick, injured and disabled veterans.

The House vote to approve H.R. 3082 will be a major milestone towards ensuring sufficient, timely and predictable funding for veterans health care programs, and DAV urges all Members of the House to vote in favor of this legislation.

Again, thank you for all that you have done to ensure that veterans, especially disabled veterans, have access to timely and quality medical care today, and for years to come. I look forward to continuing to work

with you in the future to build better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

RAYMOND E. DEMPSEY,
National Commander.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC July 9, 2009.

Hon. CHET EDWARDS,
Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN EDWARDS: On behalf of the 2.2 million men and women of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and its Auxiliaries. I would like to offer our strong support for H.R. 3082, the FY 2010 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriation, which we understand will be up for a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives this Friday. It is our assessment that this funding legislation will dramatically improve the health care and benefits this nation provides for its former defenders.

Notably, the legislation would transform the health care funding system by, for the first time, providing an advanced appropriation for veterans' health care. Enacting an advanced appropriation is one of the VFW's highest priorities. We strongly believe that this mechanism along with the funding provided in this bill for FY 2011 medical programs will far better allow the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to properly invest in its health care resources, including hiring and retaining top quality health care and other professionals.

The VFW also applauds this bill's historic funding levels for FY 2010. The bill includes $77.9 billion in finding for veterans programs with $45.1 billion targeted for veterans' health care. Within that, there is additional funding aimed at some of the biggest issues confronting the veteran population: mental health, access to rural health care and assistance for homeless veterans.

Additionally, we are especially appreciative of the $1.9 billion in major and minor construction funding contained within the bill. This extra funding, which represents a $256 million increase over the current year's funding level, will better allow VA to reduce the major projects construction backlog, as well as increasing the numher of minor construction projects, many of which are targeted towards safety issues that directly affect the well-being of veterans.

The VFW thanks you for your continuing efforts on behalf of America's veterans. The record funding levels contained in H.R. 3082 demonstrates the ongoing commitment of all veteran's supporters in the House to those who have served the nation in uniform. We salute your leadership and advocacy in support of this bill, and we look forward to working with you to ensure its passage.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT E. WALLACE,
Executive Director.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
Washington, DC, July 9, 2009.

Hon. CHET EDWARDS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans' Affairs and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN EDWARDS: As you and your colleagues consider H.R. 3028, the Military Construction, Veterans' Affairs' and Related Appropriations for FY 2010, The American Legion offers its full support, especially for the advance appropriations provision for the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) Veterans Health Administration (VHA) in FY 2011.

Overall. H.R. 3028 would provide $77.9 billion in discretionary spending for FY 2010, including Overseas Contingency Operations funding.

The bill would provide $48.2 billion in advance appropriations for FY 2011 for three medical accounts of VA: Medical Services; Medical Support and Compliance; and Medical Facilities. This is an eight percent increase compared to FY 2010 and will provide reliable and timely funding to support the delivery of medical care. The amount included in this bill would provide FY 2010 current services level for the start of FY 2011. It is intended to give the Administration stability in execution, provide the subcommittee with continued oversight and the ability to address new initiatives, and allow veterans to have peace of mind when funding bills are delayed..

The FY 2010 recommendation in the bill for Military Construction, Family Housing and BRAC is $24.6 billion. This funding level fully funds BRAC 2005 at $7.5 billion, provides an increase of $140 million for BRAC 1990 to enhance the cleanup of installations closed in prior BRAC rounds, and provides for the modernization of training facilities, as well as the building of child care centers, barracks, and homes. The recommendation reflects the success of the housing privatization program with a reduced need for additional federal funding for family housing construction. It also ensures that the active forces will have a better environment in which to train and operate, as well as an improved quality of life. It also would provide funds to support additional requirements for operations in Afghanistan at $1.4 billion.

This bill includes two major military construction initiatives. First, it provides $450 million to accelerate the Army's program to modernize troop housing facilities for trainees. Second, the bill provides an additional $200 million for a Guard and Reserve initiative to address critical unfunded requirements. This funding would go toward critical unfunded requirements for Army and Air National Guard, as well as the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force Reserves.

This bill would also provide $53.0 billion in discretionary funding for VA for FY 2010. Within this funding increase is provided funding for the Veterans Benefits Administration to hire 1,200 new claims processors.

This increase also would provide for an additional $4.4 billion for VHA. These funds will allow VA to increase access to services, ensure safer facilities and improve treatment including:

$4.6 billion for mental health services;

$3.2 billion for homeless veterans to include the $26 million for the Presidential Initiative to combat homelessness, $150 million for the homeless grants and per diem program, and $20 million for supportive services for low income veterans and families;

$580 million for medical research to include a $48 million increase for research to address the critical needs of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans;

$1.1 billion to address the backlog in nonrecurring maintenance at our medical facilities; and

28 new Vet Centers and 30 new CBOCs.

Additionally, this bill continues the rural health initiative and beneficiary travel rates that we provided last year. Language has been included to continue oversight of VHA to ensure that VA provides funding to the medical facilities in a timely manner, delivers comprehensive mental health and substance abuse services, and improves the delivery of care to veterans who live in rural areas.

The National Cemetery Administration is funded at $250 million, an increase of $20 million above the FY 2009 appropriation. With 164 cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico, the Administration has an extensive backlog of maintenance. The increase will give the Administration additional resources to improve the appearance and condition of cemeteries as identified in the study on veterans' cemeteries which was submitted to the Congress in 2002.

H.R. 3028 would provide an additional $19.2 million for the Office of Inspector General to provide additional personnel to accomplish financial audit and increased oversight of medical and information technology programs.

The bill includes $33 billion for Information Technology Systems. This funding will continue the Department's development of improvements to its electronic health record. Other major programs include development of a new financial management system, paperless benefits processing, and cyber security initiatives.

This bill would provide $1.9 billion for VA's construction—$256 million above FY 2009. The bill will provide needed funding for five ongoing major construction projects, planning and design funding for seven new projects, and funding for approximately 100 minor construction projects that can be completed in FY 2010.

Finally, the increased funding will enable the Armed Forces Retirement Home to undertake a major capital construction project on its Washington, DC campus as well as begin operations at the Gulfport, Mississippi campus which is being rebuilt from damage it sustained by hurricane Katrina. The increase also would provide $5.3 million for a project at Arlington National Cemetery to relocate power and telephone lines to allow for an additional 8,000 to 10,000 gravesites.

The American Legion applauds you and your colleagues for their hard work on this critical piece of legislation.

Thank you for your continued commitment to America's veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

STEVE ROBERTSON,
Director, National Legislative Commission.

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, July 9, 2009.

Hon. CHET EDWARDS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs House Committee on Appropriations, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN EDWARDS: On behalf of Paralyzed Veterans of America, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your unwavering support for our nation's sick and disabled veterans, as well as all of the men and women who have so honorably served this country.

PVA appreciates your efforts as Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs to achieve a historic funding level for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) once again this year. Through your leadership, the VA will receive funding for FY 2010 that meets and in some cases exceeds the recommendations of The Independent Budget, co-authored by PVA, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

More importantly, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill also includes approximately $48.2 billion in advance appropriations for VA medical care accounts—Medical Services, Medical Support and Compliance, and Medical Facilities—for FY 2011. By providing the VA with an advance appropriation for FY 2011, the VA will be able to better plan for hiring critical new staff and addressing demand on the health

care system. Approval of advance appropriations represents a truly historic accomplishment that will benefit all veterans.

These actions reflect the priority that you and the House leadership have placed on the needs of the men and women who have so honorably served this country. Once again, we thank you for your tireless efforts on behalf of veterans. We look forward to working with you and all members to ensure that the Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs appropriations bill is approved by the full House.

Sincerely,

CARL BLAKE,
National Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America.

AMVETS,
Lanham, MD, July 9, 2009.

Hon. CHET EDWARDS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, House Committee on Appropriations, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN EDWARDS: On behalf of AMVETS I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership and continued, undaunting support of America's veterans, servicemembers and their families.

AMVETS wants to recognize your efforts as the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs for fighting for and securing yet another year of incomparable funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Because of your efforts, the VA will receive an unparalleled budget for Fiscal Year 2010.

AMVETS also would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your efforts in including approximately $48.2 billion in advanced appropriations for FY 2011. By providing the VA with advanced appropriations for 2011, VA will now have sufficient, timely and predicable funding. This will allow VA to better coordinate for the use of valuable resources, to include hiring of key medical staff and other demands that are unique to the health care setting.

Passage of advanced appropriations is a historic event that will be looked back on as one of the most important improvements to the VA health care system. It is with that, I want to thank you, the House leadership, and all members of Congress who have seen the value in advanced appropriations and have made it a reality.

Again, thank you for your continued support and advocacy for America's veterans.

Veterans serving veterans,

RAYMOND C. KELLEY,
National Legislative Director, AMVETS.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Madam Chair, as per the requirements of the Republican Conference Rules on member requests, I secured the following earmarks in H.R. 3082.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LOBIONDO (NJ–02)

Bill Number: H.R. 3082

Account: Air Force, Military Construction, Air National Guard

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: 177th Fighter Wing

Address of Requesting Entity: 400 Langley Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

Description of Request: Provide $1.7 million for the construction of a properly sited, adequately sized, and configured functional space to support conventional munitions administration, training and maintenance in support of 18 PAA F–16 aircraft to better enable the 177th to perform its Air Sovereignty Alert mission in defense of the homeland.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the Fiscal Year 2010 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill and thank Chairman EDWARDS and Ranking Member WAMP for their work in crafting this legislation.

As someone who represents thousands of military veterans and their families, I believe that we have an obligation to provide them with the benefits and treatment they deserve for their years of faithful service. This legislation accomplishes that by providing $108.9 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs, a $14.5 billion increase over Fiscal Year 2009, when not factoring in stimulus or supplemental funding.

It is estimated that the VA will treat more than 6.1 million patients in 2010, including more than 419,000 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. To meet this demand, the bill provides important funding for mental health programs, assistance to homeless veterans, and to improve access for veterans in rural areas. The bill also provides vital funding to hire additional claims processors to support the Department's continued effort to reduce the backlog of benefit claims.

I was also pleased to see that the committee included a provision to provide advanced budget authority and funding for fiscal year 2011 for medical related accounts. This is a step to ensure that the VA healthcare system continues to receive a timely and predictable stream of funding without subjecting it to the delays that can arise due to the larger annual budget debates.

In addition to the funds provided for our nation's veterans, I also applaud the committee's work in providing the necessary funding to meet the construction needs of our military. The bill provides $24.6 billion for construction, facility modernization, and environmental cleanup. Among other construction projects at Ft. Lewis and McChord, I was specifically pleased to see funds included in the bill for the construction of a Joint Access Road between Ft. Lewis and McChord Air Force Base, a project that I specifically requested funding for. These funds will help provide a link between the two installations, alleviate congestion, and provide a deployment route for the air transportation of Army vehicles and equipment.

Again, I thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for their work on this legislation and urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule and the bill shall be considered read through page 58, line 6.

The text of that portion of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3082

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, $4,554,906,000, to remain available until September 30, 2014, of which $924,484,000 is designated as being for overseas deployments and other activities pursuant to section 423(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010, and of which $450,000,000 shall be for trainee troop housing facilities: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed $187,872,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for the funds provided for trainee troop housing facilities: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated in this paragraph shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified under the heading ''Military Construction, Army'' and under the headings ''Army'' in the tables entitled ''Military Construction'' and ''Overseas Contingency Operations'' in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated for ''Military Construction, Army'' under Public Law 110–329, $59,500,000 are hereby rescinded.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, $3,757,330,000, to remain available until September 30, 2014: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed $182,569,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated in this paragraph shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified under the heading ''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'' and under the headings ''Navy'' in the table entitled ''Military Construction'' in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, $1,833,671,000, to remain available until September 30, 2014, of which $474,500,000 is designated as being for overseas deployments and other activities pursuant to section 423(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed

$93,407,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further,* That the amount appropriated in this paragraph shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified under the heading ''Military Construction, Air Force'' and under the headings ''Air Force'' in the tables entitled ''Military Construction'' and ''Overseas Contingency Operations'' in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER AND RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as currently authorized by law, $2,743,526,000, to remain available until September 30, 2014: *Provided*, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $121,442,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further,* That the amount appropriated in this paragraph shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified under the heading ''Military Construction, Defense-Wide'' and under the headings ''Defense-Wide'' in the table entitled ''Military Construction'' in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated for ''Military Construction, Defense-Wide'' under Public Law 110–329, $25,800,000 are hereby rescinded.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $529,129,000, to remain available until September 30, 2014, of which $30,000,000 shall be for critical unfunded requirements: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $40,488,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further,* That, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Army National Guard shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for the funds provided for critical unfunded requirements: *Provided further,* That the amount appropriated in this paragraph shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified under the heading ''Military Construction, Army National Guard'' and under the headings ''Army National Guard'' in the table entitled ''Military Construction'' in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $226,126,000, to remain available until September 30, 2014, of which $30,000,000 shall be for critical unfunded requirements: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $12,021,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further,* That, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Air National Guard shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for the funds provided for critical unfunded requirements: *Provided further,* That the amount appropriated in this paragraph shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified under the heading ''Military Construction, Air National Guard'' and under the headings ''Air National Guard'' in the table entitled ''Military Construction'' in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $432,516,000, to remain available until September 30, 2014, of which $30,000,000 shall be for critical unfunded requirements: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $25,016,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further,* That, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief of Army Reserve shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for the funds provided for critical unfunded requirements: *Provided further,* That the amount appropriated in this paragraph shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified under the heading ''Military Construction, Army Reserve'' and under the headings ''Army Reserve'' in the table entitled ''Military Construction'' in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $125,874,000, to remain available until September 30, 2014, of which $20,000,000 shall be for critical unfunded requirements of the Navy Reserve and $35,000,000 shall be for critical unfunded requirements of the Marine Forces Reserve: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $2,951,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further,* That, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief of Navy Reserve and the Commander, Marine Forces Reserve shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for the funds provided for critical unfunded requirements: *Provided further,* That the amount appropriated in this paragraph shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified under the heading ''Military Construction, Navy Reserve'' and under the headings ''Navy Reserve'' in the table entitled ''Military Construction'' in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $103,169,000, to remain available until September 30, 2014, of which $55,000,000 shall be for critical unfunded requirements: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed $4,669,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further,* That, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief of Air Force Reserve shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for the funds provided for critical unfunded requirements: *Provided further,* That the amount appropriated in this paragraph shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified under the heading ''Military Construction, Air Force Reserve'' and under the headings ''Air Force Reserve'' in the table entitled ''Military Construction'' in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $234,914,000, to remain available until expended.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $273,236,000, to remain available until September 30, 2014: *Provided*, That the amount appropriated in this paragraph shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified under the heading ''Family Housing Construction, Army'' in the table entitled ''Military Construction'' in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $523,418,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $146,569,000, to remain available until September 30, 2014: *Provided*, That the amount appropriated in this paragraph shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified under the heading ''Family Housing Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'' in the table entitled ''Military Construction'' in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $368,540,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $66,101,000, to remain available until September 30, 2014: *Provided*, That the amount appropriated in this paragraph shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified under the heading ''Family Housing Construction, Air Force'' in the table entitled ''Military Construction'' in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $502,936,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $2,859,000, to remain available until September 30, 2014: *Provided*, That the amount appropriated in this paragraph shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified under the heading ''Family Housing Construction, Defense-Wide'' in the table entitled ''Military Construction'' in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, $49,214,000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, $2,600,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

HOMEOWNERS ASSISTANCE FUND

For the Homeowners Assistance Fund established by section 1013 of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374), $23,225,000, to remain available until expended.

CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of construction, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the destruction of the United States stockpile of lethal chemical agents and munitions in accordance with section 1412 of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1986 (50 U.S.C. 1521), and for the destruction of other chemical warfare materials that are not in the chemical weapon stockpile, as currently authorized by law, $146,541,000, to remain available until September 30, 2014: *Provided*, That the amount appropriated in this paragraph shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified under the headings ''Chemical Demilitarization Construction, Defense-Wide'' in the table entitled ''Military Construction'' in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT 1990

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 1990, established by section 2906(a)(1) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), $536,768,000, to remain available until expended.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT 2005

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005, established by section 2906A(a)(1) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), $7,479,498,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Department of Defense shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to obligating an amount for a construction project that exceeds or reduces the amount identified for that project in the most recently submitted budget request for this account by 20 percent or $2,000,000, whichever is less: *Provided further*, That the previous proviso shall not apply to projects costing less than $5,000,000, except for those projects not previously identified in any budget submission for this account and exceeding the minor construction threshold under section 2805 of title 10, United States Code.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed $25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate construction of new installations for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than $25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed $500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries bordering the Arabian Sea, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Sea, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed $1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: *Provided*, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 112. The Secretary of Defense is to inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of the plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed $100,000.

SEC. 113. Not more than 20 percent of the funds made available in this title which are limited for obligation during the current fiscal year shall be obligated during the last two months of the fiscal year.

SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 117. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, proceeds deposited to the Department of Defense Base Closure Account established by section 207(a)(1) of the Defense Authorization Amendments and Base Closure and Realignment Act (10 U.S.C. 2687 note) pursuant to section 207(a)(2)(C) of such Act, may be transferred to the account established by section 2906(a)(1) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), to be merged with, and to be available for the same purposes and the same time period as that account.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883, of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in ''Family Housing'' accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in ''Military Construction'' accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: *Provided*, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

SEC. 119. (a) Not later than 60 days before issuing any solicitation for a contract with the private sector for military family housing the Secretary of the military department concerned shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the notice described in subsection (b).

(b)(1) A notice referred to in subsection (a) is a notice of any guarantee (including the making of mortgage or rental payments) proposed to be made by the Secretary to the private party under the contract involved in the event of—

(A) the closure or realignment of the installation for which housing is provided under the contract;

(B) a reduction in force of units stationed at such installation; or

(C) the extended deployment overseas of units stationed at such installation.

(2) Each notice under this subsection shall specify the nature of the guarantee involved and assess the extent and likelihood, if any, of the liability of the Federal Government with respect to the guarantee.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 120. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the accounts established by sections 2906(a)(1) and 2906A(a)(1) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 USC 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding this or any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: *Provided*, That not more than $35,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission: *Provided further*, That the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report annually to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance expenditures for each individual general or flag officer quarters for the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 122. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

SEC. 123. None of the funds made available in this title, or in any Act making appropriations for military construction which remain available for obligation, may be obligated or expended to carry out a military construction, land acquisition, or family housing project at or for a military installation approved for closure, or at a military installation for the purposes of supporting a function that has been approved for realignment to another installation, in 2005 under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note), unless such a project at a military installation approved for realignment will support a continuing mission or function at that installation or a new mission or function that is planned for that installation, or unless the Secretary of Defense certifies that the cost to the United States of carrying out such project would be less than the cost to the United States of cancelling such project, or if the project is at an active component base that shall be established as an enclave or in the case of projects having multi-agency use, that another Government agency has indicated it will assume ownership of the completed project. The Secretary of Defense may not transfer funds made available as a result of this limitation from any military construction project, land acquisition, or family housing project to another account or use such funds for another purpose or project without the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress. This section shall not apply to military construction projects, land acquisition, or family housing projects for which the project is vital to the national security or the protection of health, safety, or environmental quality: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees within seven days of a decision to carry out such a military construction project.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 124. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation ''Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense'', to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

SEC. 125. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used for any action that is related to or promotes the expansion of the boundaries or size of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, Colorado.

SEC. 126. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill and in the guidance for military construction reprogrammings and notifications contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14-R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of December 1996, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $47,218,207,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed $29,283,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be reimbursed to ''General operating expenses'', ''Medical support and compliance'', and ''Information technology systems'' for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the ''Compensation and pensions'' appropriation: *Provided further*, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to ''Medical care collections fund'' to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $8,663,624,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by title 38, United States Code, chapters 19 and 21, $49,288,000, to remain available until expended.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That during fiscal year 2010, within the resources available, not to exceed $500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, $165,082,000.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans, $29,000, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed $2,298,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, $328,000, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for ''General operating expenses''.

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, $664,000.

GUARANTEED TRANSITIONAL HOUSING LOANS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed transitional housing loan program authorized by subchapter VI of chapter 20 of title 38, United States Code, not to exceed $750,000 of the amounts appropriated by this Act for ''General operating expenses'' and ''Medical support and compliance'' may be expended.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL SERVICES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, food services, and salaries and expenses of health-care employees hired under title 38, United States Code, and aid to State homes as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code; $71,840,500,000, plus reimbursements, of which $37,136,000,000 shall become available on October 1, 2010, and shall remain available through September 30, 2011: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available under this heading for fiscal year 2010, not to exceed $1,015,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2011: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs: *Provided further*, That for the Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, a minimum of $15,000,000, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.); $10,207,000,000, plus reimbursements, of which $5,307,000,000 shall become available on October 1, 2010, and shall remain available through September 30, 2011: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available under this heading for fiscal year 2010, not to exceed $145,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2011.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, and domiciliary facilities and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services, $10,633,000,000, plus reimbursements, of which $5,740,000,000 shall become available on October 1, 2010, and shall remain available through September 30, 2011: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available under this heading for fiscal year 2010, not to exceed $145,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2011: *Provided further*, That, of the amount available for fiscal year 2010, $200,000,000 for non-recurring maintenance shall be allocated in a manner not subject to the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, $580,000,000, plus reimbursements, to remain available until September 30, 2011.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemeterial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemeterial operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, $250,000,000, of which not to exceed $24,200,000 shall be available until September 30, 2011.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-Wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed $25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, $2,083,700,000: *Provided*, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under

paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: *Provided further*, That the Veterans Benefits Administration shall be funded at not less than $1,690,200,000: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed $111,000,000 shall be available for obligation until September 30, 2011: *Provided further*, That from the funds made available under this heading, the Veterans Benefits Administration may purchase (on a one-for-one replacement basis only) up to two passenger motor vehicles for use in operations of that Administration in Manila, Philippines.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated cost; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, $3,307,000,000, plus reimbursements, to be available until September 30, 2011: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be obligated until the Department of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, a plan for expenditure that: (1) meets the capital planning and investment control review requirements established by the Office of Management and Budget; (2) complies with the Department of Veterans Affairs enterprise architecture; (3) conforms with an established enterprise life cycle methodology; and (4) complies with the acquisition rules, requirements, guidelines, and systems acquisition management practices of the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That within 30 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a reprogramming base letter which provides, by project, the costs included in this appropriation.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), $107,000,000, of which $6,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2011.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406, 8102, 8103, 8106, 8108, 8109, 8110, and 8122 of title 38, United States Code, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, $1,194,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which $16,000,000 shall be to make reimbursements as provided in section 13 of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (41 U.S.C. 612) for claims paid for contract disputes: *Provided*, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and funds provided for the purchase of land for the National Cemetery Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project which has not been approved by the Congress in the budgetary process: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2010, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2010; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2011: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $933,030,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified under this heading in the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to accompany this bill.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406, 8102, 8103, 8106, 8108, 8109, 8110, 8122, and 8162 of title 38, United States Code, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, $726,800,000, to remain available until expended, along with unobligated balances of previous ''Construction, minor projects'' appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading shall be available for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, $85,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States in establishing, expanding, or improving State veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, $42,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2010 for ''Compensation and pensions'', ''Readjustment benefits'', and ''Veterans insurance and indemnities'' may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: *Provided*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2010, in this Act or any other Act, under the ''Medical services'', ''Medical support and compliance'', and ''Medical facilities'' accounts may be transferred among the accounts: *Provided*, That any transfers between the ''Medical services'' and ''Medical support and compliance'' accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: *Provided further*, That any transfers between the ''Medical services'' and ''Medical support and compliance'' accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That any transfers to or from the ''Medical facilities'' account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for ''Construction, major projects'', and ''Construction, minor projects'') shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the ''Medical services'' account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for ''Compensation and pensions'', ''Readjustment benefits'', and ''Veterans insurance and indemnities'' shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations

required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2009.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from ''Compensation and pensions''.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2010, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the ''General operating expenses'' and ''Information technology systems'' accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: *Provided*, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2010 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: *Provided further*, That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2010 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services, may be obligated during the fiscal year in which the proceeds are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication under section 319 of title 38, United States Code, for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not exceed $35,257,000 for the Office of Resolution Management and $3,287,000 for the Office of Employment and Discrimination Complaint Adjudication: *Provided*, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: *Provided further*, That amounts received shall be credited to the ''General operating expenses'' and ''Information technology systems'' accounts for use by the office that provided the service.

SEC. 211. No appropriations in this title shall be available to enter into any new lease of real property if the estimated annual rental cost is more than $1,000,000, unless the Secretary submits a report which the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress approve within 30 days following the date on which the report is received.

SEC. 212. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: *Provided*, That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the reasonable charges for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: *Provided further*, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 213. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the ''Construction, major projects'' and ''Construction, minor projects'' accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in ''Construction, major projects'' and ''Construction, minor projects''.

SEC. 214. Amounts made available under ''Medical services'' are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 215. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to ''Medical services'', to remain available until expended for the purposes of that account.

SEC. 216. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall allow veterans who are eligible under existing Department of Veterans Affairs medical care requirements and who reside in Alaska to obtain medical care services from medical facilities supported by the Indian Health Service or tribal organizations. The Secretary shall: (1) limit the application of this provision to rural Alaskan veterans in areas where an existing Department of Veterans Affairs facility or Veterans Affairs-contracted service is unavailable; (2) require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary; (3) require this provision to be consistent with Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services activities; and (4) result in no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Indian Health Service.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 217. Such sums as may be deposited to the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the ''Construction, major projects'' and ''Construction, minor projects'' accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 218. None of the funds available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, in this Act, or any other Act, may be used to replace the current system by which the Veterans Integrated Services Networks select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.

SEC. 219. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to implement any policy prohibiting the Directors of the Veterans Integrated Services Networks from conducting outreach or marketing to enroll new veterans within their respective Networks.

SEC. 220. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report on the financial status of the Veterans Health Administration.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Amounts made available under the ''Medical services'', ''Medical support and compliance'', ''Medical facilities'', ''General operating expenses'', and ''National Cemetery Administration'' accounts for fiscal year 2010, may be transferred to or from the ''Information technology systems'' account: *Provided*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 222. Amounts made available for the ''Information technology systems'' account may be transferred between projects: *Provided*, That no project may be increased or decreased by more than $1,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

SEC. 223. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with—

(1) section 842 of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–115; 119 Stat. 2506); or

(2) section 8110(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 224. Of the amounts made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2010, in this Act or any other Act, under the ''Medical facilities'' account for non-recurring maintenance, not more than 20 percent of the funds made available shall be obligated during the last 2 months of that fiscal year: *Provided*, That the Secretary may waive this requirement after providing written notice to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 225. Section 1925(d)(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''appropriation 'General Operating Expenses, Department of Veterans Affairs' '' and inserting ''appropriations for 'General Operating Expenses and Information Technology Systems, Department of Veterans Affairs' ''.

SEC. 226. Section 1922(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''administrative costs to the Government for the costs of'' and inserting ''administrative support financed by the appropriations for 'General Operating Expenses, Department of Veterans Affairs' and 'Information Technology Systems, Department of Veterans Affairs' for''.

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed

$7,500 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, $61,800,000, to remain available until expended.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, $27,115,000, of which $1,820,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described, and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth, under this heading in Public Law 102–229.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as authorized by law, for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, including the purchase of two passenger motor vehicles for replacement only, and not to exceed $1,000 for official reception and representation expenses, $42,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That none of the funds available under this heading shall be for construction of a perimeter wall at Arlington National Cemetery. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies account.

Funds appropriated under this Act may be provided to Arlington County, Virginia, for the relocation of the federally-owned water main at Arlington National Cemetery making additional land available for ground burials.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, $134,000,000, of which $72,000,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi.

TITLE IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 402. Such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010 for pay raises for programs funded by this Act shall be absorbed within the levels appropriated in this Act.

SEC. 403. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 404. No part of any funds appropriated in this Act shall be used by an agency of the executive branch, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships, for publicity or propaganda purposes, and for the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, radio, television, or film presentation designed to support or defeat legislation pending before Congress, except in presentation to Congress itself.

SEC. 405. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of ''E-Commerce'' technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 406. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 407. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 408. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for a project or program named for an individual serving as a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States Congress.

The CHAIR. No amendment shall be in order except the amendments printed in House Report 111–195. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

After disposition of the amendments specified in the first section of House Resolution 622, the Chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees each may offer one pro forma amendment to the bill for the purpose of debate, which shall be controlled by the proponent.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. EDWARDS OF TEXAS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 111–195.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to offer the amendment on behalf of Mr. COHEN of Tennessee. It's an important amendment. I don't think there's any objection to it.

The CHAIR. The gentleman shall be considered the designee of the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. EDWARDS of Texas:

Page 33, line 16, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 37, line 14, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 622, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I thank the Chair.

I want to salute Mr. COHEN of Tennessee for his leadership in bringing this issue to the House. We are facing tremendous challenges. The number of veterans who need mental health care services, including PTSD services face a tremendous challenge finding enough psychiatrists, psychologists and mental health care professionals to provide the services that these great Americans so very much need. Mr. COHEN has taken the lead in this amendment in providing an additional $1 million for educational debt forgiveness for mental health care professionals who agree to employment at the Department of Veterans Affairs. I have actually had a number of discussions with VA employees in my district, and I think there is a sense that this kind of incentive might really encourage mental health care professionals who otherwise would not go into the VA system to do so. So I think this is a very important amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAMP. Madam Chairman, I claim the time in opposition but not to oppose this amendment but to support this amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. WAMP. I thank my colleague from the State of Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for this amendment. We support the amendment, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Chair, my amendment offered by Mr. EDWARDS of Texas increases the Medical Services account at the Veterans Administration by $1M with an offset of the same amount to the General Operating Expenses account.

It is my hope that this modest increase could be used toward the budget of the VA's Education Debt Reduction Program (EDRP).

Started in 1998, the Education and Debt Reduction Program is an excellent asset to VA. The program is a loan repayment and debt cancellation program specifically for VA medical personnel. It helps the VA to recruit and retain the most competitive and qualified professionals.

Over the course of the year, I have encouraged the VA to review its processes for hiring and retaining its doctors, nurses, clinicians, psychologists, psychiatrists and other employees that are so critical to the treatment and care of our veterans.

In years passed, more medical personnel have wanted to participate in EDRP but were unable to enroll because of funding restrictions.

This amendment could directly address this program and I strongly encourage my colleagues to support it.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman SLAUGHTER and staff for considering my amendment.

I also want to applaud Chairman OBEY, subcommittee Chair CHET EDWARDS and staff for crafting a fiscally responsible appropriations bill that will benefit military construction projects, the veterans' affairs administration, and veterans throughout this country.

This appropriations bill took into consideration the most feasible parts of the President's requests as well as the concerns of our veterans and veterans groups.

For years, the Veterans Administration, Veterans Service Organizations, and veterans across the country have fought for advanced funding to ensure that the VA Healthcare system is funded in a timely and predictable fashion.

For the first time, Congress is providing advanced appropriations not just for the upcoming fiscal year but for two years ahead of time. This advanced funding will affect the medical services, medical support and compliance, and medical facilities accounts and will enable the Veterans Hospital in Memphis and Veterans Hospitals throughout the country to plan and implement its programs early.

It offers $4.6 billion for mental health, the same as the President's request and $800 million above the budget for 2009. This increase will allow the VA to better deal with the mental health diagnosis, care, and treatment of our courageous veterans.

I support this bill and again I ask for your support of my amendment as offered by Mr. EDWARDS of Texas.

Mr. WAMP. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for debate on the amendment having expired, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. FILNER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 111–195.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Chair, I rise to offer amendment No. 2.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. FILNER:

Page 35, line 4, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(reduced by $3,500,000)''.

Page 37, line 14, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $3,500,000)''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 622, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. I thank the Chair. I would like to thank Chairman EDWARDS and Chairman OBEY for the incredible work they have done on this budget for the last, now, 2½ years. As I understand it, we have increased the health care budget in that time 60 percent. In this bill we have raised the health care budget 11 percent; and in a revolutionary kind of approach, I think, we forward fund the health care items for the VA, and the increase is 8 percent. This is an incredible victory for veterans; and we thank, again, Mr. EDWARDS and Mr. OBEY for leading the charge on this.

You know, in the last 22 years I think we've only had the VA budget approved on time in three out of those 22 years. From now on that VA budget will be approved a year in advance. It will make sure that we have timely and adequate funding, for the VA health care system needs to know what its budget is in order to be able to run efficiently and at high quality. So we thank Mr. EDWARDS for these items. I know there are numerable things in here that we're going to pass that will strengthen health care for our Nation's veterans.

Some of my colleagues may recall that last year we authorized the VA to fund the Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events at a $10 million authorization which we believe is the appropriate amount to enhance and improve the quality of life for the men and women who have made a tremendous sacrifice for our country. The underlying bill provides $6.5 million, as requested by the administration, but it does not provide the full authorized amount. But what this amount does is it increases the level of funding by $3.5 million. I strongly believe that providing this program the needed funding to assist our injured servicemembers and veterans will enhance and improve the quality of life for these men and women while they heal from their wounds.

Madam Chair, I think all of us have been inspired whenever we have a chance to watch these warrior athletes, those who have been ''disabled''—and I put that in quotes—perform at an incredibly high level in these Paralympics with their training. It obviously strengthens their quality of life and their optimism, but it helps us all as we realize not only do people sacrifice life and limb for their country, but we can provide the resources to make sure that they have a full and productive life. So I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FILNER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I would like to take this time to thank the gentleman and Mr. LANGEVIN for their leadership on this amendment. I also want to thank the gentleman for everything he has done in the past 2½ years. Our subcommittee cannot appropriate without his subcommittee authorizing it, and all the accomplishments we've listed absolutely would not have happened without the leadership of Mr. FILNER. And a particular thanks to Mr. FILNER who has been the national champion in the Congress for advance funding. It's truly a historic initiative this year.

□ 1215

Mr. FILNER. I thank the gentleman.

I would yield the balance of my time to the cosponsor of this amendment, Madam Chair, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN). I thank him for his leadership on these issues.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 1½ minutes.

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Filner-Langevin amendment to provide full funding to the United States Olympic Committee's Paralympic Veterans Program.

I would like to thank in particular Chairman EDWARDS for his great work in support of our service men and women through increased funding levels in the underlying bill and Chairman FILNER for his continued advocacy for our disabled veterans especially.

The USOC Paralympic program provides a unique opportunity for personal recovery and achievement for our wounded servicemembers who return from combat with serious and life-changing injuries.

Daily physical activity is often the most critical mental and physical aspect of the rehabilitation process. It reduces stress, depression and secondary medical conditions while increasing self-esteem, employment rates and quality of life.

Full funding of the U.S. Paralympic Adaptive Sports Program will expedite the expansion of services and programs to injured veterans.

The USOC has created Paralympic programs in 99 communities, providing access to physical activity and sports opportunities, regardless of skill level, for over 5,000 injured servicemembers and veterans.

Paralympic, community and veteran organizations are partnering with the USOC to invest more than $40 million in private resources annually to develop programs, provide Paralympic mentors and expand to 250 U.S. communities serving over 8,000 injured servicemembers by 2012.

After all our servicemembers have sacrificed for our country, we have an obligation to provide services and opportunities for them as they return home.

The Paralympic program has already touched thousands of lives, and with additional resources, it can help countless more veterans regain both physical strength and self-esteem. And I urge my colleagues to support the Filner-Langevin amendment.

Mr. WAMP. Madam Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition, even though we support the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. WAMP. I yield our time to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

Mr. BUYER. Is there any remaining time on the majority side?

The CHAIR. No.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this amendment to increase funding for the Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events by $3.5 million.

Seven or eight years ago, I had the opportunity to visit the U.S. Olympic training center in San Diego, and I was inspired by the attitude and positive example that our Olympians that train there continue to set for all Americans. It is truly a remarkable place.

Then as I drove away from the training center, I was also upset. I was upset because at that time in history the United States Olympic Committee was embroiled in a scandal. I was very bothered that individuals were seeking to profit off of someone else's ideal, the pursuit of excellence. I then set the course to help reorganize the United States Olympic Committee. I am very pleased that the committee was reorganized. They did great things as we went into the 2004 Olympics and then the 2008 Olympics, summer Olympics on both. Based on the experience and the relationships that developed with the Olympic Committee and the relationships of the VA, we were able to create a memorandum of understanding between the Olympic Committee and the VA to further create these sports programs. That led then to our bipartisan legislation, Public Law 110–389, to authorize a total of $10 million to fund a VA grant program to increase participation in sports at all levels by disabled athletes.

This program creates a partnership between the VA and the United States Paralympic program and grassroots disabled sports programs such as those sponsored by the Veterans Service Organizations, Disabled Sports U.S.A., and local parks and recreation organizations.

Madam Chair, it is well known that sports are a great venue to rehabilitate a wounded veteran both physically and mentally. We need to offer every possible avenue for our wounded heroes to regain their self-esteem in the face of what are often severe disabilities. By increasing the funding to the full authorization, we will ensure a fast start for the program and maximize its impact on the disabled veteran community.

I want to thank Chairman EDWARDS and Mr. WAMP for meeting this request. I ask all Members to support my amendment. You say, STEVE, ''my'' amendment? What do you mean? Well, the amendment before the House—are you ready for this—is word for word, comma for comma, period for period the amendment that I submitted to the Rules Committee.

Now bipartisanship is an affirmative act. It requires two people. It is a choice. You can either do things the partisan way or you can do things the bipartisan way. You see, when I drafted this amendment, I sent my staff down to speak with Mr. FILNER's staff. I made an offer to him that if he wanted to be on this amendment. His staff then said, Mr. FILNER is working on an amendment. The two staffs then exchanged both amendments. My staff said to Mr. FILNER's staff, Your amendment could be subject to a point of order, but if you would like Mr. BUYER to be on your amendment, that's fine.

Mr. FILNER made a choice. He wanted to have his own amendment. So he submitted his amendment to the Rules Committee, which was subject to a point of order. I submitted my amendment to the Rules Committee clean. Clean. It is mystical, almost magical, how my amendment ends up with somebody else's name on it before the House floor. It is truly magic. But in the end, bipartisanship is a wonderful thing, because through that magic and mystery that is what we have here, Mr. Chairman. We got our bipartisanship in the end because the most important thing is these disabled veterans will have an opportunity to use a platform of healing. That is what we are about.

So it is important that we get rid of the politics. That is my quest here. That is why I enjoy working with you, Mr. EDWARDS and ZACK. Stop the games. And I would yield to the gentleman.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I don't know all the processes of the timing and who had what amendment, but what I do want to make clear is Mr. BUYER obviously clearly has been a real leader on this effort. So I salute you for your leadership on it and commend you for it.

There was no intention of any partisan politics being involved in this. I'm glad, as you are, at the end of the day because of your work and Mr. FILNER's work and Mr. LANGEVIN's work that these great Americans will be honored. I salute the gentleman for that.

Mr. BUYER. I reclaim my time, you are absolutely right. I applaud Mr. FILNER for his legislation. He worked with me to create that legislation.

But, Mr. FILNER, I want to work with you, and it is a choice. You chose not to, but in the end, through mystery and magic, we got our bipartisanship. So I will continue to extend my arm of the magic dust.

I ask for everyone to support this mystical and magical amendment.

I yield back.

The CHAIR. All time for debate on the amendment has expired.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MRS. CAPITO

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 111–195.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 3 offered by Mrs. CAPITO:

Page 39, line 14, after the first dollar amount insert the following: ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 54, line 21, after each dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 622, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Chairwoman, I would like to thank the chairman of the subcommittee and the ranking member for the great work they do for veterans and our military construction around the world.

I appreciate the opportunity today to rise to offer an amendment to the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill that would increase funding for a program that provides free legal services to our veterans under the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Account.

I am sure all of us as Members of Congress have talked to a veteran that has not received the benefits that they feel they are fairly entitled to. And if that happens, they can appeal the decision in the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. However, as many veterans are on fixed incomes, they cannot afford the costly legal services associated with appealing a Department of Veterans Affairs decision.

The present law entitles certain veterans who wish to appeal to free legal services so that they can receive a fair hearing that they are entitled to without the burden of huge legal fees.

Veterans from throughout my district have expressed their concern that many veterans are struggling with the appeals process, and with so many of our warriors returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, we must take measures to ensure that all of our veterans' needs are provided for.

My amendment would increase the veterans' legal services account by $1 million, providing for more services for our brave veterans.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this very important amendment. I appreciate the opportunity to offer it.

I reserve my time.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise to claim time in opposition. I want to clarify that I support this amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. It is a good amendment. I thank the gentlewoman for offering it. I just want to say I think it is important to send a message that we want all veterans, regardless of their income levels, to have access to the full appeals process. That is what this amendment is about. I support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. I appreciate the chairman's support and the support of the ranking member. I yield back my time.

The CHAIR. All time for debate on the amendment has expired.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. GARRETT OF NEW JERSEY

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 111–195.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 4 offered by Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey:

Page 42, line 5, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(decreased by $4,000,000)''.

Page 43, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $4,000,000)''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 622, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. My amendment seeks to increase funding for the Grants For Construction of State Veterans Cemeteries account by $4 million and decrease funding for the Grants for Construction, Minor Projects account by $4 million.

I have met with a number of veterans in my district for a period of time, and one of the topics we have discussed at length was funding for our veterans cemeteries. There are basically two types of veterans cemeteries: Federal and State. When the original Federal cemeteries began to run out of room, the Federal Government created an optional program, the State Cemetery Grant Program that is administered by the Veterans Administration.

The Veterans Administration provides funding for State Cemeteries through this grant program. And all pending projects are evaluated by the VA and ranked in priority of order. This is not an earmarked program. It is a competitive type and ranking process.

The current priority list, however, shows there are $151 million worth of projects where the State matching funds are in place and ready to go. In other words, there are at present more than $150 million worth of unfunded State Cemetery Projects waiting for the Federal matching grant.

Yet the appropriations bill that we now consider provides only $42 million. Of course the very first priority for the State Cemetery Program is to provide funding for new cemeteries and existing cemeteries that are in need right now. However, this means that many cemeteries which require expansion, and improvement projects will not receive the funding if we keep it at the current level.

To make matters worse, the program has been underfunded for years even though the number of World War II veterans needing interments will increase rapidly.

My State of New Jersey is home to the BGWC Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery. This cemetery has two improvement projects that are waiting for Federal funding.

I communicated this with several VA officials in New Jersey, and they agreed that there is a need for an overall increase in the annual budget for this program, and my amendment would do just that. My amendment will simultaneously decrease the Grants for Construction for Minor Projects. It basically means we will put the money today for the use of the veterans that need it today and deal later with some administrative changes and costs like that.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise to claim my time in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the amendment. I commend the gentleman for this. I have seen firsthand what it means to our living veterans to know that they will have a place of honor to be remembered by their loved ones and the country which they served.

The State Veterans Cemetery Program is a great State-Federal partnership. This is a tremendously important amendment. I'm glad to support it.

I yield back the rest of my time.

□ 1230

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Before the gentleman sits down, I wanted to say thank you to the gentleman on the area of cemeteries and dealing with our heroes in the past for the work we have done together here, and the comments he made years ago in the Budget Committee dealing with the situation of spouses of our veterans as well and making sure that they are adequately taken care of as well. Besides this matter that is before us today, I just want to say thanks for your work in those areas as well.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. SESSIONS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 111–195.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 5 offered by Mr. SESSIONS:

Page 58, after line 6, insert the following:

SEC. 409. Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report detailing the current and planned use of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (hereinafter in this section referred to as ''HBOT'') in Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities. Such report shall include the number of veterans being treated with HBOT, the types of conditions being treated with HBOT and their respective success rates, and the current inventory of hyperbaric chambers.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 622, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Chairman, the amendment that I bring forth today requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a report to Congress on the use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy, commonly known as HBOT, in VA medical facilities. My active interests in hyperbaric therapy over the last 3 years has led me to more understanding of the critical function it has performed and performs even today, and the promising potential it has for injured active-duty soldiers and veterans.

I would like to briefly comment on the currently approved uses of HBOT and the promising research into hyperbaric therapy as a possible treatment for traumatic brain injury, known as TBI.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy uses a chamber to administer oxygen in particular dosages for already FDA-approved treatments, many of which provide remarkable benefits to our injured veterans. The oxygen acts as a catalyst in healing wounds which often fail to respond to other medical and surgical procedures and usually lack the blood circulation and blood oxygen levels necessary to heal.

These treatments include, but are not limited to: treating nonhealing diabetic foot wounds; advancing healing for crush injuries such as gunshot wounds, falls, and vehicle accidents; support for individuals suffering from exceptional blood loss; and advanced assistance in reconstructing complex wounds which require the transferring of tissues from one part of the body to another.

HBOT frequently saves a veteran from an expensive, painful, life-altering, and potentially life-threatening amputation of an arm, a leg or a foot. This therapy has been extremely impressive, and I look forward to hearing the VA's report on its current and planned use of hyperbaric therapy in its medical facilities.

Since 2006, I have been actively engaged in researching a new cross-application of hyperbaric therapy for treating another very common and life-threatening nonhealing wound: TBI,

traumatic brain injury. I have held numerous meetings with physicians, Ph.D.'s, scientists, government officials, and our servicemen and women, the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, all regarding the treatment of TBI with hyperbaric therapy being available to them.

Over the past year, I have seen a multitude of evidence from numerous cases that show substantial progress in brain function of our injured soldiers after treatment with hyperbaric oxygen.

As we speak today, veterans all across our country are suffering from TBI, and they are in the process of receiving hyperbaric therapy from private physicians with amazing real-world results. Many of these soldiers who could not hold a job or properly care for their families, they sometimes can't even leave their own bed, or others who have suicidal tendencies, have returned to active duty, employment, school, and perhaps more importantly, to the life of their own families.

These results have led me to believe in the promising potential of healing our brain-injured soldiers suffering from TBI and PTSD.

The Defense Center on Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, under the command of Brigadier General Loree Sutton, is conducting a study into hyperbaric therapy for the treatment of TBI, and it is scheduled to be delivering study results in December of 2010. I highly encourage my colleague to join me over the next few months in engaging with General Sutton and the Department of Defense on this promising new application of hyperbaric therapy.

My amendment today is very simple. It asks for the VA to submit a report on their current and planned use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy. By knowing today how it is used, we can have a greater understanding of how we can assist our injured veterans tomorrow. So we are asking how the VA uses it today and where those facilities are so we can be prepared to work, when the Department of Defense has their answer available soon, to where we then coincide that with the veterans who are home with us today.

Madam Chairman, I want to say that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) both engaged me yesterday in the Rules Committee on this amendment. I believe there could be widespread agreement that this is a good application for both of us to vote for.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition to the amendment, but let me make it clear I am very honored to support this amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I commend Mr. Sessions for his interest in pursing innovative health care procedures for our veterans. We provided tremendous increases for health care funding for our veterans over the last 2½ years. In addition to that funding and the oversight of that funding, we need to encourage the VA to be innovative. We want them to be prudent and careful. Perhaps, as we go through to conference, we should encourage the VA not only to provide a report on where it is used and how often it is using hyperbaric oxygen therapy, but perhaps we ought to work with them, encouraging them to do some studies to look into the potential opportunities of this type of care making a real difference in the lives of our veterans.

I am proud to join with the gentleman in support of his amendment.

I yield to the ranking member, Mr. WAMP, for any comments he would care to make.

Mr. WAMP. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to thank, actually, the Rules Committee yesterday for agreeing to this amendment coming before the House today.

Mr. Sessions has persevered on this issue now for some time. He deserves great credit. It has tremendous potential, and I look forward to working with the chairman and Mr. SESSIONS as we go forward. I also support the amendment.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. FLAKE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 111–195.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 6 offered by Mr. FLAKE:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds provided in this Act shall be available from the following Department of Defense military construction accounts for the following projects:

Account	Location	Project	Amount
Army	Alabama: Anniston Depot	Industrial Area Electric System Upgrade.	$3,300,000
Army	Alabama: Fort Rucker	Water Survival Training Facility	$401,000
Army	Alabama: Redstone Arsenal	Gate 7 Access Control Point	$3,550,000
Air Force	Arkansas: Little Rock AFB	Security Forces Operations Facility	$1,400,000
Army NG	Arkansas: West Memphis	Readiness Center	$1,240,000
Army	Arizona: Fort Huachuca	Fire Station, Two Company	$6,700,000
Navy	California: Bridgeport MWTC	Commissary	$6,830,000
Air Force	California: Los Angeles AFB	Consolidated Parking Area Ph 1	$8,000,000
Air Reserve	California: March ARB	Small Arms Firing Range	$9,800,000
Navy	California: Monterey NSA	Marine Meterology Center	$10,240,000
Navy	California: Point Loma NB	Add/Alt Marine Mammal Surgical Center.	$2,330,000
Air Force	California: Travis AFB	Taxiway Mike Bypass Road	$6,000,000
Air Force	Colorado: Peterson AFB	East Gate Realignment	$7,200,000
Air NG	Connecticut: Bradley IAP	CNAF Beddown--Upgrade Facilities	$9,000,000
Navy	Connecticut: New London NSB	MK-48 Torpedo Magazine	$6,570,000
Air Force	Florida: Eglin AFB	Flight Test Operations Facility (413 FLTS).	$9,400,000
Air Force	Florida: MacDill AFB	Mission Support Facility	$384,000
Air Force	Florida: MacDill AFB	Consolidated Communications Facility	$21,000,000
Navy	Florida: Mayport NS	Fitness Center	$26,360,000
Navy	Florida: Panama City NSA	Joint Diver A-School Dormitory	$520,000
Navy	Georgia: Albany MCLB	Weapons Maintenance Hardstand Facility.	$4,870,000
Army NG	Georgia: Hunter AAF	Readiness Center	$8,967,000
Air Force	Georgia: Robins AFB	Hot Cargo Pad/Taxiway	$6,200,000
Air Force	Hawaii: Hickam AFB	Ground Control Tower	$4,000,000
Army NG	Hawaii: Kapolei	Readiness Center (JFHQ)	$5,446,000
Navy	Hawaii: Pearl Harbor NSY	Drydock 2 Starboard Waterfront Facility.	$850,000
Army NG	Iowa: Camp Dodge	Motor Vehicle Storage Buildings, Freedom Center.	$1,963,000

Account	Location	Project	Amount
Army NG	Iowa: Davenport	Army Aviation Support Facility Add/Alt.	$2,000,000
Army NG	Iowa: Fairfield	Field Maintenance Shop Add/Alt	$2,000,000
Army NG	Iowa: Iowa Falls	Add/Alt Readiness Center	$2,000,000
Air Force	Idaho: Mountain Home AFB	Civil Engineer Maintenance Complex	$690,000
Air NG	Illinois: Lincoln Capital Airport	Relocate Base Entrance	$3,000,000
Air Force	Illinois: Scott AFB	Aeromedical Evacuation Facility	$7,400,000
Navy	Indiana: Crane NSWC	Strategic Weapons System Engineering Facility.	$510,000
Air NG	Kansas: McConnell AFB	Upgrade DCGS	$8,700,000
Army	Kentucky: Fort Campbell	Physical Fitness Complex	$900,000
Army	Kentucky: Fort Campbell	Chapel Complex	$14,400,000
Army NG	Kentucky: Frankfort	Joint Forces Headquarters	$334,000
Army NG	Kentucky: London	Phase IV Aviation Operations Facility	$1,805,000
Air NG	Kentucky: Standiford Field	Contingency Response Group Facility	$600,000
Army	Louisiana: Fort Polk	Multipurpose Machine Gun Range	$6,400,000
Navy	Maine: Portsmouth NSY	Consolidation of Structural Shops	$2,000,000
Navy	Maine: Portsmouth NSY	Gate 2 Security Improvements	$7,090,000
Army	Maryland: Aberdeen Proving Ground	Information Processing Node, Ph 2	$956,000
Air Force	Maryland: Andrews AFB	Physical Fitness Facility	$930,000
Navy	Maryland: Carderock NSWC DET	RDTE Support Facility, Ph 2	$6,520,000
Army	Maryland: Fort Detrick	Auditorium and Training Center Expansion.	$7,400,000
Army	Maryland: Fort Meade	Intersection, Rockenbach Road & Cooper Avenue.	$2,350,000
Navy	Maryland: Indian Head NSWC	Advanced Energetics Research Lab Complex, Ph 2.	$16,460,000
Air NG	Massachusetts: Barnes ANGB	F-15 Aircraft Ready Shelters	$8,100,000
Air NG	Massachusetts: Hanscom AFB	Joint Forces Operations Center--ANG Share.	$1,500,000
Army NG	Michigan: Camp Grayling	Barracks Replacement, Ph 2	$440,000
Army NG	Michigan: Fort Custer (Augusta)	Organizational Maintenance Shop (ADRS).	$7,732,000
Air NG	Minnesota: Minneapolis-St.Paul IAP	Add/Alt Starbase Facility	$1,900,000
Air NG	Mississippi: Gulfport-Biloxi RAP	Relocate Base Entrance	$6,500,000
Army	Missouri: Fort Leonard Wood	Health Clinic	$7,800,000
Air Force	Missouri: Whiteman AFB	EOD Operations Complex	$7,400,000
Air Force	Missouri: Whiteman AFB	Land Acquisition North and South Boundaries.	$5,500,000
Army NG	Montana: Fort Harrison	Add/Alt Troop Medical Facility	$1,750,000
Army NG	Nevada: Las Vegas	Civil Support Team Ready Building	$727,000
Air NG	New Jersey: Atlantic City IAP	Munitions Administration Facility	$1,700,000
Air Force	New Jersey: McGuire AFB	Warfighter and Family Support Center	$7,900,000
Army	New Jersey: Picatinny Arsenal	Ballistic Evaluation Facility, Ph 2	$10,200,000
Air Force	New Mexico: Cannon AFB	Dormitory (96 RM)	$450,000
Air Force	New Mexico: Holloman AFB	Fire/Crash Rescue Station	$10,400,000
Air Force	New Mexico: Kirtland AFB	Add to Space RDTE Operations Center	$5,800,000
Army	New York: Fort Drum	All Weather Marksmanship Facility	$8,200,000
Air NG	New York: Fort Drum	Reaper LRE Beddown (Wheeler Sack AAF).	$2,700,000
Air Reserve	New York: Niagara Falls ARS	Indoor Small Arms Range	$5,700,000
Army NG	North Carolina: East Flat Rock	Readiness Center Add/Alt	$2,516,000
Army	North Carolina: Fort Bragg	Field Support Brigade Headquarters	$720,000
Army NG	North Carolina: Fort Bragg	Tactical UAS Support Facility	$6,038,000
Air Force	North Carolina: Seymour Johnson AFB	Radar Approach Control Complex, Ph 1	$6,900,000
Air Force	North Dakota: Minot AFB	Control Tower/Base Operations Facility	$1,710,000
Army NG	Ohio: Beightler Armory	Joint Forces Headquarters (JOC) Addition.	$2,000,000
Army NG	Ohio: Ravenna	Shoot House	$2,000,000
Air NG	Ohio: Toledo Express Airport	Multi-Use Instructional Facility	$2,000,000
Air Force	Ohio: Wright-Patterson AFB	Replace West Ramp, Ph 2	$10,600,000
Air NG	Ohio: Zanesville ANGS	New Supply Warehouse	$1,000,000
Air Force	Oklahoma: Tinker AFB	T-9 Noise Suppressor	$5,100,000
Army NG	Oregon: Camp Rilea	Water Supply System	$368,000
Army NG	Oregon: Polk County	Readiness Center	$12,100,000
Army NG	Pennsylvania: Luzerne	Readiness Center	$924,000
Navy	Rhode Island: Newport NS	Renovate Perry Hall	$8,530,000
Air NG	South Carolina: McEntire JRB	Joint Use Armed Forces Reserve Center	$1,300,000
Air Force	South Carolina: Shaw AFB	Add/Alter USAFCENT Headquarters	$21,183,000
Air NG	South Dakota: Joe Foss Field	Add to Munitions Maintenance Complex	$1,300,000
Army Reserve	Texas: Bryan	Army Reserve Center	$12,200,000
Army	Texas: Fort Bliss	Access Control Points	$6,500,000
Army	Texas: Fort Hood	Family Life Center	$8,500,000
Navy Reserve	Texas: Fort Worth NAS/JRB	Replace Joint Base Communications Building.	$6,170,000
Air NG	Texas: Kelly Field Annex	Add/Alt Aircraft Maintenance Shops	$7,900,000
Navy	Texas: Kingsville NAS	Solar Panel Array	$4,470,000
Army Reserve	Texas: Robstown	Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facility.	$10,200,000
Air Force	Utah: Hill AFB	PCC Apron NW End Taxiway A	$5,100,000
Army NG	Vermont: Ethan Allen Range	BOQ Add/Alt	$1,996,000
Navy	Virginia: Dahlgren NSWC	Electromagnetic Research & Engineering Fac Ph 2.	$3,660,000
Defense-Wide	Virginia: Dam Neck Annex	SOF Force Protection Improvements	$4,100,000
Army	Virginia: Fort Lee	Defense Access Roads	$5,000,000

Account	Location	Project	Amount
Navy	Washington: Everett NS	Small Craft Launch	$3,810,000
Air Force	Washington: Fairchild AFB	Refueling Vehicle Maintenance Facility	$4,150,000
Army	Washington: Fort Lewis	Fort Lewis-McChord AFB Joint Access	$9,000,000
Navy	Washington: Indian Island NM	Ordnance Storage Pads with Covers	$13,130,000
Army NG	West Virginia: Logan/Mingo County	Readiness Center	$501,000
Army NG	West Virginia: Parkersburg	Readiness Center	$2,234,000
Army NG	West Virginia: Parkersburg	Field Maintenance Shop	$967,000
Air NG	Wisconsin: General Mitchell IAP	Add/Alt KC-135 Corrosion Control Hangar.	$5,000,000
Air Force	Guam: Andersen AFB	Postal Service Center	$3,500,000
Army NG	Puerto Rico: Camp Santiago	Urban Assault Course	$1,669,000

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 622, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Chairman, this amendment would simply strike funding for all of the Member-requested earmarks for military construction projects and would return the money to the various accounts.

I am not here to dispute the merits of any of the earmarks in this account. I have no doubt that each of these projects will vastly improve the quality of life for military servicemembers and for their families, but that is not the issue here. I am here to draw attention to what we have talked about before, and that is the spoils system that these earmarks represent.

There are 109 Member-requested earmarks in the bill; 43 of them are going to powerful Members of Congress who serve in leadership or as appropriators, committee chairs, or ranking members. That represents about 40 percent of the share of earmarks being taken by less than 24 percent of the Members of the House.

I am sure my colleagues will tell me that these projects are sorely needed at the military bases they are earmarked for and that servicemembers will suffer without them, but what about the many installations that don't receive Member-requested earmarks in the bill and the servicemembers stationed there?

Neither Camp Lejeune nor Camp Pendleton received any Member-requested earmarks in the bill. Each of these camps houses a Marine Expeditionary Force comprised of tens of thousands of marines who deploy with great frequency. I am willing to bet that each of these installations have suggestions for new structures to build. Why haven't they received any earmarks in this bill? The answer is pretty simple: Neither of them resides in a district represented by a powerful Member of Congress.

The earmarks in this bill total more than $578 million. That is just a little bit less than the earmark totals for the CJS and Ag bills put together. Of that dollar amount, more than $240 million are being taken home by powerful Members of Congress. That is nearly 41 percent. When you take into account earmark dollars secured by rank-and-file Members in conjunction with powerful Members, that number jumps to more than $300 million, or 52 percent.

So just to reiterate, the earmarks in this bill favor powerful Members by a ratio of 2 to 1. One-quarter of the Members of this House are associated with more than half of the earmark dollars in this bill.

I wish I could say that this is an anomaly, but this is pretty consistent with the rest of the appropriation bills we have considered so far this year, and I have a chart that demonstrates that.

Earmark dollars associated with powerful Members of Congress. Again, those are committee chairs, leadership, or those on the Appropriations Committee, representing 24 percent of the Members in this body. In the CJS bill that we considered earlier, 58 percent of the earmarked dollars went to just 24 percent of the Members.

In the Homeland Security bill, 68 percent of the earmarked dollars went to just 24 percent of the Members of the House.

In the Interior bill, 64 percent of the earmarked dollars went to just 24 percent of the Members of the House.

In the Agriculture bill, 67 percent of the earmarked dollars go to just 24 percent of the Members of the House.

And in this bill, 52 percent of the earmarked dollars go to just 24 percent of the Members of this House. That is a pretty stark pattern.

There are different types of earmarks, obviously. There are those that are simply wasteful. We see those for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and whatever else that is easy to laugh at. Sometimes it is small amounts of money and sometimes it is a lot larger.

And then there are those, particularly in defense bills, where you are giving no-bid contracts to private companies. There is often a pattern of campaign contributions coming back to Members who secure no-bid contracts in private companies. That does not describe what is going on here.

These earmarks, as I mentioned, I have no doubt that they are for a legitimate purpose. But here is another problem with earmarking: It represents a spoils system where rank-and-file Members of the House are not given access to those that others are.

In the Homeland Security bill, it was particularly stark. As I mentioned, a huge percentage, nearly 70 percent, went to just 24 percent of the body. In fact, more than 50 percent went to just 14 percent, those represented on the Appropriations Committee, and these were for predisaster mitigation programs, flood control districts and the like. I don't think Mother Nature decides, I'm going to hit those districts represented by appropriators more than I am going to hit other districts. It is just because they are able to do it, and so they do it. So the rest of the country that competes for these grants on a competitive basis has, at least in that case, 25 percent of that account is earmarked before they can even compete for the rest of the grants that are given out on a competitive basis. Madam Chair, that is just not fair. That is just not the way we should do this. I think we ought to rethink this and we ought to strike that funding in this bill.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise to claim the time in strong opposition to this ill-advised amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I would like to begin by yielding to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ), the chairman of the House Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee.

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Chairman, I want to thank Chairman EDWARDS and my good friend, Mr. WAMP—and to my other good friend, Mr. FLAKE—for bringing this responsible bill to the floor.

□ 1245

I rise in opposition to the Flake amendment. The Military Construction authorization and appropriations process is a tedious process, and it requires close coordination with my good friends on both sides of the aisle, Chairman Edwards and Mr. WAMP, and members of the committee. It also requires extensive coordination with the Department of Defense.

The committees critically review the administration's request and ensure that facilities are built for a sound requirement. The committees also ensure that the projects are executable and validated for the correct costs.

This process forces a dialogue with the local installation commanders that requires that they communicate their needs to their Representatives in Congress. This dialogue is critical to ensuring Members of Congress that they have a complete understanding of local military requirements and can correctly advocate for our Nation's defense. It is a hard process, but in the

end it ensures that the right facilities are built at the right time and at the right location. I would not be executing my oath of office if we did anything else.

I would remind my colleagues that each of these projects has already been debated in the National Defense Authorization Act.

I recommend that my colleagues vote ''no'' on the Flake amendment.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, reclaiming the rest of my time, I have great respect for the principled position of Mr. FLAKE. I disagree with it. He believes that basically the administration should decide in 100 percent of the cases where America's tax dollars should go. I believe article I of the Constitution gives the Congress the responsibility for that.

And I feel very strongly that, while he has a principled position, he misstates and inaccurately states the process by which these project decisions were made. These were made based on what was right for our military troops and their families. The vast majority of these congressionally designated projects have gone through the Department of Defense approval process, and the Department of Defense said they were needed.

Now, he said he simply wanted to strike the earmarks. Despite his intentions, let me tell you the impact, because it's not simple intentions; it's actual impact where amendments make a difference.

If his amendment passes, we will cut $56 million for 16 National Guard readiness centers and Reserve centers. We will cut $44 million for nine military ranges and training facilities. We will cut $83 million for 16 quality-of-life facilities such as housing, clinics, and military family centers. We will cut $98 million for 16 projects to improve force protection, facilities for emergency responders, and flightline safety. We will cut $86 million for 18 equipment maintenance and storage facilities and $47 million for seven military research and testing facilities.

We will cut a project to provide properly sized and configured storage space for Mark-48 torpedoes at one of our key submarine bases, and a new hardstand for weapons maintenance at the Marine Corps' East Coast Logistics Base will be lost.

The gentleman would cut a new chapel complex to replace more than 15,000 square feet of trailers and World War II-era facilities. And he would cut a platoon-sized machine gun range at the Army's Joint Readiness Training Center.

I know he has no intention of harming our military—I would never accuse him of that—but in my opinion, he misrepresented the process by which these decisions were made. And I think not only Democrats, but my Republican colleagues, would agree that this has been a fair, legitimate process.

And by the way, it should be no surprise to anyone that Members of Congress who ask to be on the Armed Services Committee and the Military Construction Appropriations Committee are Members who represent military installations. So the allegation that because they get a higher percentage of congressionally designated funding compared to other Members somehow suggests a spoils system is just simply dead wrong, and I reject it categorically.

I would yield any time to my friend, the ranking member, Mr. WAMP, for any comments he would care to make.

Mr. FLAKE. Will the gentleman yield for a 15-second clarification?

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I will yield the gentleman 15 seconds.

Mr. FLAKE. I thank the gentleman.

The gentleman mentioned that this would cut several programs. This does not cut one dollar. It simply returns the money to the account and the military services would decide where to best——

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Reclaiming my time, the amendment would cut these projects out of this bill.

I would be glad to yield to Mr. WAMP for any comments he would like to make.

The CHAIR. All time for debate on this amendment has expired.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

The CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 7 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. MOORE OF WISCONSIN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 111–195.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 8 offered by Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for the processing of new enhanced use leases in the three original National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (soldier's home branches) established before 1868.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 622, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment which would prohibit the use of funds in this bill for the processing of enhanced use leases at the original National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers or Soldiers' Homes established before 1868.

My amendment would protect these soldiers' homes established before 1868, these historic Civil War-era buildings or the campuses on which they reside, from diversion from veteran activities to commercial purposes and it would retain these national treasures for future generations of veterans, their families, and an interested public.

The concept of a National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was first established by congressional legislation and approved by President Abraham Lincoln on March 3, 1865. The National Asylum was established for officers and men of the volunteer forces of the United States who had been totally disabled by wounds received or sickness contracted while in the line of duty during the Civil War. In all, 11 national soldiers' homes across the country were opened and eventually integrated into the newly established Veterans Administration in 1930. These old homes reflect how the Forefathers chose to care for and honor the soldiers who fought to keep the country united as one Nation. Their creation changed the Nation's attitude toward the care of soldiers after battle.

Built in 1867, the Milwaukee Soldiers' Home, located in my district in the Fourth Congressional District of Wisconsin, was one of the three original soldiers' homes; the other two are located in Maine and Ohio.

In late 2005, I learned that the VA and the city of Milwaukee were aggressively pursuing an enhanced use lease proposal that included the possible commercial development of several 19th century soldiers' homes buildings located on the Milwaukee VA grounds, much to the dismay and against the wishes of the Milwaukee veterans community, who wanted to protect these historic buildings for veterans purposes.

The Allied Council of Veterans and their membership approached my office with their concerns and they alerted me to the potential outcomes of the proposal and reported that they had had no input in the ongoing lease discussions.

Currently, the Milwaukee Soldiers' Home is on the National Park Service list to be designated for a place on its National Register of Historic Places. This will give the veterans an even stronger voice against any attempts to lease out for commercial purposes these historic buildings.

I urge my colleagues, on a bipartisan basis, to join me in standing with veterans to protect these historic soldiers' homes grounds for veterans' uses by voting ''yes'' on my amendment.

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

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise to claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I

don't oppose this amendment. I support this amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. I want to thank the gentlewoman for raising this issue, and I am glad to support her effort on this.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. FLAKE

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 62, noes 358, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 528]

AYES—62

Bachmann
Barton (TX)
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Campbell
Cantor
Cassidy
Chaffetz
Coffman (CO)
Conaway
Cooper
Deal (GA)
Duncan
Ehlers
Flake
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Hall (TX)
Hensarling
Inglis
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Lance
Linder
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marshall
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
Minnick
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Price (GA)
Roe (TN)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ryan (WI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Stearns
Sullivan
Tiberi
Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)

NOES—358

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Childers
Christensen
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gerlach
Giffords
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luján
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Pierluisi
Pingree (ME)
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sablan
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—18

Barrett (SC)
Bishop (UT)
Blunt
Engel
Faleomavaega
Fudge
Granger
Graves
Heller
Hoekstra
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Kaptur
Klein (FL)
Mack
McHugh
Norton
Paul
Payne

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1320

Messrs. DAVIS of Illinois, BOEHNER, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Messrs. MOORE of Kansas, JOHNSON of Georgia, BURTON of Indiana, AKIN and MORAN of Kansas changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Messrs. BROWN of South Carolina and HALL of Texas changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. HELLER. Madam Chair, on rollcall No. 528, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

This Act may be cited as the ''Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2010''.

The CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEINER) having assumed the chair, Ms. BALDWIN, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3082) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 622, she reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Pursuant to House Resolution 622, the question on adoption of the amendments will be put en gros.

The question is on the amendments.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The question is on the passage of the bill.

Under clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 3, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 529]

YEAS—415

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray

Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—3

Campbell
Flake
Stark

NOT VOTING—14

Aderholt
Barrett (SC)
Fudge
Granger
Graves
Heller
Hoekstra
Kaptur
Kilpatrick (MI)
Klein (FL)
Marchant
Marshall
McHugh
Paul

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are reminded there are less than 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1337

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HELLER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 529, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, due to official business, I missed two rollcall votes on Friday, July 10, 2009. I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 528 and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 529 of H.R. 3082, the Fiscal Year 2010 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I missed the vote on the amendment to H.R. 3082 of Mr. FLAKE because we were detained in a hearing on the Honduran coup. Had I been present on the floor of the House, I would have voted ''no.''

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. CANTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland, the majority leader, for the purpose of announcing next week's schedule.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding. On Monday, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, the House will meet at 10:30 a.m. for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business. On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business. On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m.

We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. The complete list of suspensions bills, as is the custom, will be announced at the close of business today.

In addition to the suspension bills, we will also consider the 2010 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriation Act and the 2010 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, this is our first colloquy since the July 4 recess, and we are scheduled to be in session for 3 more weeks before the next recess. So, Madam Speaker, I'd ask the gentleman if he could give us a sense of what will be considered on the floor beyond next week.

Mr. HOYER. Well, I expect to complete the appropriations bills and also the large item that will be on the agenda is the health care legislation that we hope to pass before we leave on the August break. Prior to that, I intend to have on the floor a provision dealing with statutory PAYGO.

□ 1345

We have not yet determined exactly whether that bill will be free standing or whether it will be on another bill that would be reported to the House. In addition, the food safety bill is possible. The committees are still working on other matters, and we hope to have the food safety issue resolved. That came out of the Energy and Commerce Committee, but there are a number of other committees, including the Ag Committee and your own committee, Ways and Means, that have expressed interest in that.

Those are essentially the items that we intend to deal with between now and the August break.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, the Senate is scheduled to be in session 1 week longer than we are in the House, and I ask the gentleman if he expects us or anticipates our working into August, as the Senate is scheduled to do.

I yield.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As the gentleman I think knows, because I think he got a preliminary schedule from my office which had us working the first week in August, I received comments from both sides of the aisle from a lot of Members who have young children, school-aged children. One of the realities is, we called around