

In the last 4 years, Mr. Speaker, we have added almost \$25 billion to the health care needs of our veterans. That is over a 65 percent increase. That is unprecedented in the history of VA to have such an increase, and we needed to do that. We have literally hundreds of thousands of new veterans, many with brain injury, many with PTSD, post-traumatic stress disorder. We have veterans from Vietnam War who are aging, and even earlier wars, obviously. So we have tremendous need, and we put in billions of dollars into especially mental health care of our Nation's veterans.

We wrote a GI bill for the 21st century which matched the GI bill really from 1944, the original GI bill.

□ 2040

I don't know about you, Mr. Speaker, but I'm here because of the GI Bill. My dad came back from the war. He got some education, and we were able to buy a house. We were middle class for the first time in our lives because of the GI Bill, like 8 million other families who took advantage of that.

So we have brought those benefits in line to what it really costs to go to college. As you have seen today, we have worked on homeless veterans, and we have worked on women veterans. We have tried to improve access for rural veterans. We have done quite a bit.

I am looking forward to working with our counterparts in the new Congress to continue the progress that we have made for veterans. We intend to cooperate fully. Mr. ROE has been very good to work with.

I am not sure who the chairman will be from your side, but we have established, I think, good working relationships with nearly every member of your committee.

So, as we conclude this bill, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank again the staff of our committee. I want to thank the staffs on both sides of the aisle for their work and for doing so much for veterans during the last 4 years.

I would urge passage of the Kind bill, H. Res. 1644.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1644.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR 2011 LOCALITY-BASED COMPARABILITY PAYMENTS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-156)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United

States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

The law authorizes me to implement an alternative pay plan for locality pay increases for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2011, if I view the adjustments that would otherwise take effect as inappropriate due to "national emergency or serious economic conditions affecting the general welfare." Our country faces serious economic conditions affecting the general welfare. As the economic recovery continues, the time has come to put our Nation back on a sustainable fiscal course, an effort that requires tough choices and shared sacrifice. Accordingly, I have determined that it is appropriate to exercise my statutory alternative plan authority under 5 U.S.C. 5304a to set alternative January 2011 locality pay rates. This decision will not materially affect our ability to attract and retain a well-qualified Federal workforce.

Under the authority of section 5304a of title 5, United States Code, I have determined that the current locality pay percentages in Schedule 9 of Executive Order 13525 of December 23, 2009, shall not increase from their 2010 levels. Pursuant to the Non-Foreign Area Retirement Equity Assurance Act of 2009 (sections 1911-1919, Public Law 111-84), I am also establishing applicable 2011 locality pay rates for Alaska and Hawaii that are based on 2010 locality pay levels.

The locality pay rates established in 2010, and continued in 2011 under this alternative plan, are shown in the attachment.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, November 30, 2010.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE OF JERRY LONG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the rich and transformative legacy of Jerry Long. Mr. Long died earlier this month after serving as a leader in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, civic and business life for decades.

From his years of serving at the head of R.J. Reynolds to his time at the helm of the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce or his dedicated philanthropic efforts, Jerry Long was nothing short of a catalyst for dramatic and positive change for the people of Forsyth County and Winston-Salem. Thanks to his decades of tireless advocacy for Winston-Salem, the area is today a better place to live than it would have been had Jerry Long not taken such keen interest in the well-being of the people and businesses of Winston-Salem.

Passing away earlier this month at 82 years of age, Jerry Long left a potent legacy of caring, generosity and a positive force of personality that helped transform Forsyth County and Winston-Salem into the place it is today. His irreplaceable impact on this corner of North Carolina will not soon be forgotten.

Jerry Long's investment in the community was only one facet of his character. He was also a dedicated husband of 56 years to his wife, Marieanne, as well as a faithful father to their six children and a grandfather to 16 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He was truly a man who knew how to live well and shape his world for the better.

I hope that, upon reflecting on his rich life, many will be inspired to invest in and give back to their communities and families in the way that Jerry Long poured himself into Winston-Salem, Forsyth County and his own family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. RICHARDSON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.