

medical facility leases that will assist the VA in bringing health care closer to veterans and improve the quality of current health care services, especially in rural America.

It contains several extensions of authority for homeless programs and supportive services for very low-income veteran families. We owe it to our veterans to ensure they have access to secure, safe, clean housing that offers a supportive environment.

Finally, this bill extends programs that are critical for our veterans who suffer from mental health issues. Nearly 30 percent of the patients the VA sees during any given year have a mental health diagnosis. We've taken strides to address this ever-growing issue, but we still have a long way to go. With the growing number of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and with an increasing number of veterans suffering from mental health issues, we must work together to tackle this challenge, and this legislation helps by extending those programs.

I would certainly encourage my colleagues to do what's right by our veterans and to support this good piece of legislation, H.R. 2646, as amended.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my friend and colleague from the great State of Texas, Representative RANDY NEUGEBAUER.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 558. This legislation would rename the Veterans Affairs Medical Center located in Big Spring, Texas, after Medal of Honor recipient George H. O'Brien, Jr. I would like to thank Chairman MILLER and Congressman FLORES for working to include this legislation as a part of the bill before us today.

Born in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1926, Mr. O'Brien enlisted in the Marine Corps while attending Texas Tech University. Shortly after graduation, he was deployed to Korea.

On October 27, 1952, the Americans mounted a counterattack during the Battle of the Hook, a position of key strategic significance. When the battle began, Second Lieutenant O'Brien leapt from his trench and bravely led his platoon into deadly small arms, artillery, and mortar fire against a numerically superior force.

Mr. O'Brien's official citation tells his story best: "Although shot through the arm and thrown to the ground by hostile automatic-weapons fire as he neared the well-entrenched enemy position, he regained his feet, waved his men onward, and continued to spearhead the assault, pausing only long enough to go to the aid of a wounded marine. Encountering the enemy at close range, Second Lieutenant O'Brien proceeded to hurl handgrenades into the bunkers and, utilizing his carbine to best advantage in savage hand-to-hand combat, succeeded in killing at least three of the enemy."

Impressively, despite being wounded, Second Lieutenant O'Brien refused to

be evacuated for medical treatment for nearly four hours, and continued to lead his men in battle.

One year to the day after his actions, Mr. O'Brien was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Eisenhower for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a rifle platoon commander in action against enemy aggressor forces."

Upon his discharge from the United States Marines, O'Brien settled in Big Spring, Texas, to raise a family and begin a career in petroleum geology. He often participated in volunteer programs at the Big Spring VA. In a 2003 interview with American Veteran magazine, old Mr. O'Brien stated, "This Medal of Honor is not mine. I hold it in trust for so many young people who didn't become grandfathers." George Herman O'Brien, Jr., passed away on March 11, 2005. He was 78 years old.

I urge my colleagues to support the underlying bill, and I am proud to honor this great American veteran.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I urge the support of this important piece of legislation. Again, I thank the gentleman from Ohio and the staff on both sides for putting together an important piece of legislation for America's veterans.

As I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the manager's amendment to H.R. 2646, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Once again, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 2646, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2646, the Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act of 2011. This bill authorizes appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs to begin major construction projects and enter into leases for VA facilities in 15 cities. These construction projects and leases will help many veterans around the country receive the best care they possibly can.

One of those leases has special significance for Hoosier veterans. Today, I'm very pleased that Fort Wayne, Indiana, will benefit from a lease that will support an important annex to the VA hospital that serves vets in northeast Indiana.

A 27,000 square-foot annex will provide a mental health clinic, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinic, and substance abuse clinic. This bill is the final step in moving the lease for this annex into fruition and extending health services for veterans in northeast Indiana. This annex will only add to the array of services already provided by the Fort Wayne VA Hospital. It's not the last chapter in our ongoing effort to ensure quality care for our vets, but it's an important one.

Nearly 30 percent of our men and women returning from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom who use the VA Health System have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Seven percent of newly returning veterans enrolled in the VA Health System are addicted to alcohol and/or other substances. It's only right to take care of those who have risked their lives for our Nation.

When I came to Washington, I knew it was critical to obtain a seat on the House Veterans Affairs Committee for this very reason. I have the honor of working for the Fort Wayne hospital and veterans health care in northeast Indiana. This bill is not only important to Hoosier veterans, but also for our veterans around the country. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 2646.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2646, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 3 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.

#### COMBATING AUTISM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2005) to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2005

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011".

#### SEC. 2. DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SURVEILLANCE AND RESEARCH PROGRAM.

Part R of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 399AA(e), by striking "2011" and inserting "2014";

(2) in section 399BB(g), by striking "2011" and inserting "2014";