

veterans by population. Nearly 128,000 former service men and women call the Granite State home. And many of them are hurting. The national unemployment rate among veterans is 13 percent, more than 4 percent higher than the general population.

That's why on Thursday, November 10, I'm hosting a special Veterans Job Fair in my home State of New Hampshire at Manchester Community College from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to help them find work. And we've got more than 40 willing employers who are attending, looking to find jobs for our men and women returning to New Hampshire.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in passing this important cost-of-living increase for the men and women who have given so much to all of us.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT), a member of the Florida delegation who has three sons wearing the uniform of this country, two sons currently serving in Iraq.

□ 1350

Mr. NUGENT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As a Member of Congress who represents one of the largest veterans communities in the United States, I recognize the significant responsibility that Congress has to ensure that our veterans receive the benefits that they so honorably have earned. These true American heroes answered the call of duty and put their lives on the line to protect our country, our freedoms, and our way of life.

It's important to remember that these proud Americans also spent their lives working hard, playing by the rules, and saving for a stable retirement. That is why today I am happy to rise in support of the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2011. This legislation will provide our proud veterans with their first cost-of-living adjustment since 2009.

Mr. Speaker, we as a Nation owe our veterans a debt that can never fully be repaid. However, as Members of Congress, we can ensure that we keep our promise to our veterans by supporting this important legislation.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN).

Ms. BROWN of Florida. First of all, I want to thank you, Mr. FILNER, for all the service that you've done for the veterans throughout the years. And of course I want to thank the chairman from Florida for your work in bringing this legislation to the floor. It's very important to the veterans.

This legislation affects the benefits of all veterans by raising the compensation they receive to allow them to continue to buy the products they need to live. It is important to pass this bill as a clean bill for those who have made sacrifices to protect the freedoms we hold most dear and do not suffer in these tough economic times.

In the words of the first President of the United States, George Washington: "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country."

As we go to Veterans Day—that's coming up November 11—I want to thank all of the veterans for their service.

God bless America.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act. This legislation is of great importance to my constituents and to veterans across the Nation.

When our military forces are sent into harm's way, they know that our Nation is committed to caring for and compensating them and their families for the impacts that result of their service. For their sacrifice, we help to repay that debt with high quality care and fair compensation.

Ensuring that compensation rates continue to keep pace with inflation is critical to meeting our obligations to those men and women who have given so much. Today, the House of Representatives will vote on a measure to increase compensation for veterans and their families, so that their income will cover the increased cost of food, housing, and other essentials.

From Vietnam veterans still dealing with the effects of Agent Orange to Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans impacted by traumatic brain injuries, the lives of our troops can be forever changed by their military service. When a servicemember's health or ability to work is impacted, we must provide them with benefits that are commensurate with the sacrifices they have made in defense of our Nation.

Today's bill helps to improve those benefits, and it helps us meet the solemn obligation that we have to our veterans and their families.

Next week, we will honor those who have served on Veterans Day. Today, I urge my colleagues to show veterans the respect that they have earned through their sacrifice and service. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this important measure.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material they may have on Senate bill 894.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I once again encourage all my colleagues to support Senate bill 894, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 894.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2061, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1965, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1070, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

CIVILIAN SERVICE RECOGNITION ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2061) to authorize the presentation of a United States flag at the funeral of Federal civilian employees who are killed while performing official duties or because of their status as a Federal employee, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 425, nays 0, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 818]

YEAS—425

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|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| Ackerman | Brady (TX) | Connolly (VA) |
| Adams | Braley (IA) | Conyers |
| Aderholt | Brooks | Cooper |
| Akin | Broun (GA) | Costa |
| Alexander | Brown (FL) | Costello |
| Altman | Buchanan | Courtney |
| Amash | Bucshon | Cravaack |
| Amodei | Buerkle | Crawford |
| Andrews | Burgess | Crenshaw |
| Austria | Burton (IN) | Critz |
| Baca | Butterfield | Crowley |
| Bachus | Calvert | Cuellar |
| Baldwin | Camp | Culberson |
| Barletta | Campbell | Cummings |
| Barrow | Canseco | Davis (CA) |
| Bartlett | Cantor | Davis (IL) |
| Barton (TX) | Capito | Davis (KY) |
| Bass (CA) | Capps | DeFazio |
| Bass (NH) | Capuano | DeGette |
| Becerra | Carnahan | DeLauro |
| Benishek | Carney | Denham |
| Berg | Carter | Dent |
| Berkley | Cassidy | DesJarlais |
| Berman | Castor (FL) | Deutch |
| Biggert | Chabot | Diaz-Balart |
| Bilbray | Chaffetz | Dicks |
| Bilirakis | Chandler | Dingell |
| Bishop (GA) | Chu | Doggett |
| Bishop (NY) | Cicilline | Dold |
| Bishop (UT) | Clarke (MI) | Donnelly (IN) |
| Black | Clarke (NY) | Doyle |
| Blackburn | Clay | Dreier |
| Blumenauer | Cleaver | Duffy |
| Bonner | Clyburn | Duncan (SC) |
| Bono Mack | Coble | Duncan (TN) |
| Boren | Coffman (CO) | Edwards |
| Boswell | Cohen | Ellison |
| Boustany | Cole | Elmers |
| Brady (PA) | Conaway | Emerson |