

I would like to briefly highlight the fact that the U.S. Coast Guard's mission has fundamentally changed over the last several years in regard to the mission upon mission heaped upon this agency and the greater role they are now playing in regard to national security, cooperating with our other defense and Armed Forces.

I want to make note that this legislation ensures that the Coast Guard is on a path to playing that role and being able to perform their responsibilities and their duties proficiently.

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I first want to echo Chairman HUNTER in stating my strong support for H.R. 1987, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, legislation that will tend to the needs of our Nation's fifth military service, the United States Coast Guard.

I also want to express my sincere appreciation to Chairman HUNTER for his genuine bipartisan collaboration throughout the development of this important legislation. Not only will this bill improve our oversight of the Coast Guard, it also will enhance the capabilities and performance of this indispensable, multi-mission maritime agency.

I also want to thank the Chairman of the Transportation Committee, BILL SHUSTER, and the Ranking Democrat Member, PETER DEFALCIO, and acknowledge them for their thoughtful contributions.

I am particularly pleased that this legislation will provide stability in budget authority for the Coast Guard. Erratic budgets and perpetual continuing resolutions have had a deleterious impact on the Coast Guard. Perhaps most notable, unpredictable and insufficient funding has hampered the Coast Guard's ability to keep pace with its long-term program to recapitalize its offshore fleets of surface and air assets.

Some of the Coast Guard's legacy cutters are fifty years old. These vessels are well beyond their estimated service life and have become increasingly unreliable and much more expensive to maintain and repair. We can, and we should, do better by our Coast Guard.

The authorized funding levels for the Acquisitions, Construction and Improvement Account in this legislation will allow the Coast Guard to keep this recapitalization initiative on track. I am optimistic that these authorizations will send a strong signal to our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee.

I also support provisions in the bill that will require the Coast Guard to initiate long-term capital planning, to require better assessments of mission performance metrics and personnel needs, and to assess and test new communication and vessel management technologies.

The bill also contains provisions important to our merchant marine. Provisions that would harmonize the renewal of different mariner credentials and allow mariners greater flexibility in acquiring their medical certifications should improve convenience without sacrificing compliance with fitness and training standards.

The bill also further advances my strong interest in using the imminent U.S. LNG export trade as a new economic opportunity for our shipyards and the U.S. flag in our foreign trade.

This legislation would direct the Secretary of Transportation to develop guidelines to pro-

mote the use of U.S. flag vessels and U.S. seafarers in the transport of LNG. I urge members to support this provision that will create maritime jobs here at home.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, this legislation is not perfect, but rarely is that the case. This legislation is, however, a balanced, responsible and forward thinking product that will support our Coast Guard and address important issues raised by maritime stakeholders.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor, and I urge members on both sides to support this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1987, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1831

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

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. 91, by the yeas and nays;
- H.R. 1313, by the yeas and nays;
- H.R. 1382, 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.

VETERAN'S I.D. CARD ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 91) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue, upon request, veteran identification cards to certain veterans, 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 Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 0, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 240]

YEAS—402

Abraham	Deutch	Katko
Adams	Diaz-Balart	Keating
Aderholt	Dingell	Kelly (IL)
Aguilar	Doggett	Kelly (PA)
Allen	Donovan	Kennedy
Amash	Duckworth	Kildee
Amodei	Duffy	Kilmer
Ashford	Duncan (SC)	Kind
Babin	Duncan (TN)	King (IA)
Barr	Edwards	King (NY)
Barton	Ellison	Kinzinger (IL)
Bass	Ellmers (NC)	Kirkpatrick
Beatty	Emmer (MN)	Kline
Becerra	Engel	Knight
Benishek	Eshoo	Kuster
Bera	Esty	Labrador
Beyer	Farr	LaMalfa
Bilirakis	Fattah	Lance
Bishop (GA)	Fincher	Langevin
Bishop (MI)	Fitzpatrick	Larsen (WA)
Bishop (UT)	Fleischmann	Larson (CT)
Black	Fleming	Latta
Blackburn	Flores	Lawrence
Blum	Forbes	Levin
Blumenauer	Fortenberry	Lewis
Bonamici	Foster	Lieu, Ted
Bost	Fox	Lipinski
Boustany	Frankel (FL)	LoBiondo
Brady (PA)	Franks (AZ)	Loebsack
Brady (TX)	Frelinghuysen	Lofgren
Brat	Fudge	Long
Bridenstine	Gabbard	Loudermilk
Brooks (AL)	Gallego	Love
Brooks (IN)	Garamendi	Lowenthal
Brownley (CA)	Garrett	Lowe
Buchanan	Gibbs	Lucas
Buck	Gibson	Luetkemeyer
Bucshon	Gohmert	Lujan Grisham
Burgess	Goodlatte	(NM)
Bustos	Gosar	Lujan, Ben Ray
Butterfield	Gowdy	(NM)
Byrne	Graham	Lummis
Calvert	Granger	Lynch
Capuano	Graves (GA)	MacArthur
Carney	Graves (LA)	Maloney
Carson (IN)	Graves (MO)	Carolyn
Carter (GA)	Grayson	Maloney, Sean
Carter (TX)	Green, Gene	Marchant
Cartwright	Griffith	Marino
Castor (FL)	Grijalva	Massie
Castro (TX)	Grothman	Matsui
Chabot	Guinta	McCarthy
Chaffetz	Guthrie	McCaul
Chu, Judy	Hahn	McClintock
Ciциlline	Hanna	McCollum
Clark (MA)	Hardy	McDermott
Clarke (NY)	Harper	McGovern
Clawson (FL)	Harris	McHenry
Cleaver	Hartzler	McKinley
Clyburn	Hastings	McMorris
Coffman	Heck (NV)	Rodgers
Cole	Heck (WA)	McNerney
Collins (GA)	Hensarling	McSally
Collins (NY)	Herrera Beutler	Meadows
Comstock	Hice, Jody B.	Meehan
Conaway	Higgins	Meeks
Connolly	Hill	Meng
Conyers	Himes	Messer
Cook	Holding	Mica
Cooper	Honda	Miller (FL)
Costa	Hoyer	Miller (MI)
Costello (PA)	Hudson	Moolenaar
Courtney	Huelskamp	Mooney (WV)
Cramer	Huffman	Moulton
Crawford	Huizenga (MI)	Mullin
Crenshaw	Hultgren	Mulvaney
Crowley	Hurd (TX)	Murphy (FL)
Cuellar	Hurt (VA)	Murphy (PA)
Cummings	Israel	Nadler
Curbelo (FL)	Issa	Napolitano
Davis (CA)	Jackson Lee	Neal
Davis, Rodney	Jeffries	Neugebauer
DeFazio	Jenkins (KS)	Newhouse
DeGette	Jenkins (WV)	Noem
Delaney	Johnson (GA)	Nolan
DeLauro	Johnson (OH)	Norcross
DelBene	Johnson, E. B.	Nugent
Denham	Johnson, Sam	Nunes
Dent	Jolly	O'Rourke
DeSantis	Jones	Olson
DeSaulnier	Joyce	Palazzo
DesJarlais	Kaptur	Palmer