

consideration the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 22, the DRIVE Act. I believe many areas of this legislation still need improvement, and I am hopeful this will occur in conference. I will support the legislation in order to move the process forward and help provide greater certainty for the delivery of current and pending transportation projects across the country.

The legislation only provides \$325 billion over the course of six years. The funding level proposed in this legislation will not be sufficient if we truly want to improve our infrastructure and keep our country competitive in the years to come. In addition, this six-year legislation is only paid for through the first three years. Congress needs to pay for all six years to ensure that the federal government can engage in new transportation projects with the states during the final three years of the legislation. As the legislation goes to conference, I will keep fighting to increase its funding.

While I am concerned about several elements in the legislation, I am glad that it includes the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, which passed the House with bipartisan support last week. The Export-Import Bank supports millions of dollars in exports by businesses in my district, and helps them to better compete in the global market. The reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank will strengthen American businesses and create American jobs.

I look forward to continuing to work with my House colleagues to resolve the issues of concern in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation and help to move the process forward, for the sake of our economy and our national infrastructure.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT
MAJOR (RET.) DANIEL BULLIS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel Bullis, a Vietnam veteran who is not only being honored by the Korean War Veterans Association but also Cape Cod Veterans, Inc. for his outstanding military service and dedication to military medicine.

Sergeant Major Bullis is a respected veteran of the war in Vietnam and served for 31 years on active duty in the United States Army Medical Department. During his illustrious career, he assumed numerous leadership responsibilities—the culmination of which led to his selection as the first Sergeant Major, Army Medical Department/Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army. He was also appointed as the first Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army Medical Department Regiment, a position in which he provided leadership and guidance concerning the health, welfare, and training of 90,000 enlisted medical personnel.

After Sergeant Major Bullis retired from the Army, he joined the Department of Defense Deployment Health Clinical Center as the Chief of Staff and also serves as Vice President for Patient and Family Services with the Walter Reed Society—a non-profit charitable organization that helps wounded veterans with the unanticipated and often burdensome financial needs. The Society provides these veterans with specially identified equipment and services related to their care when other resources are not available. Originally chartered in 1996 for the benefit of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the Society now serves its successor organization, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, in Bethesda, Maryland. Sergeant Major Bullis serves proudly and voluntarily on the Board of the Society. His efforts on behalf of the Walter Reed Society have helped hundreds of service members and their families receive the assistance they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Sergeant Major Bullis for his many years of service and outstanding dedication to the care of our nation's service members. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him and in extending our gratitude for all that he has done.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENSURING
CONTINUED OPERATIONS AND
NO OTHER MAJOR INCIDENTS,
CLOSURES, OR SLOWDOWNS (ECONOMICS)
ACT OF 2015

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my legislation, the Ensuring Continued Operations and No Other Major Incidents, Closures, or Slowdowns (ECONOMICS) Act of 2015. From late 2014 through February 2015, a dispute between the Pacific Maritime Association and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union drastically slowed import and export traffic at our 29 West Coast ports, paralyzing supply chains and the economy west of the Mississippi River. This dispute had severe and devastating economic impacts on Washington's 4th Congressional District, the Pacific Northwest, and the country—as agricultural producers, retailers, manufacturers, and countless other businesses and consumers were unable to get their goods through the ports and to foreign as well as domestic markets.

This legislation would create new economic safeguards and triggers that mandate a legal mediation process in an employer-labor dispute at our nation's ports, in order to prevent future disputes and slowdowns. The measure would require the Administration to investigate a dispute and prevent unnecessary economic harm by mandating that a Board of Inquiry be convened within 10 days of any of the safeguards being triggered and then report its recommendations to the President and the public on whether there should be a judicial injunction.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that Congress provide additional tools to keep supply chains operating and the economy running during times of severe economic hardship and this

legislation does just that. This commonsense and straightforward bill takes an important first step in mitigating the negative impacts of future labor disputes at our nation's ports, which will help protect the economy, as well as families, businesses, and agricultural producers, many of whom are still recovering from the most recent slowdown at our West Coast ports.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MILITARY SERVICE OF MR. LEONARD PITEK

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Lenny Pitek for his service to the nation. The sacrifices he made while stationed in Germany from 1957–1960 and in the Army Reserve from 1960–1963 helped keep America safe, and the Dearborn community is better off because of his hard work over the years.

Mr. Pitek's commitment to serve the Dearborn community for more than three decades is truly extraordinary. He is an active member of the American Legion Fort Dearborn Post 364, Polish Legion of American Veterans Chapter 75, and the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council (DAWVC). He also served as a chaplain for the DAWVC and American Legion Post 364. Lenny is also an original member of the Ritual Team, which provides military honors at ceremonies and funerals to ensure that every veteran is laid to rest with the honor and dignity they deserve. As a result of his direct actions, military families find peace, veterans are comforted, and our military members are buried with honor. Based on this service, Mr. Pitek was selected by his military peers to receive the DAWVC 2015 Dearborn Veteran of the Year Award.

Lenny Pitek is a longtime resident of Dearborn and lives there with his wife of 45 years, Dianne. Together, they raised three children; Anthony, Jennifer, and Monica, and they have three grandchildren. Mr. Pitek served as the past President of St. Martha's Dad's Club, where he helped organize Christmas parties, Easter egg hunts and raised money for families in need. He also volunteers at the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center distributing Christmas gifts during the holiday season. Mr. Pitek is a true hero to veterans and to all families he reaches with his unwavering dedication to service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Mr. Leonard Pitek for his military service and inspiring dedication to veterans and the City of Dearborn.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 4, 2015, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: