

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, just for the record, a lieutenant general, in case there are those who don't know what that is, has three stars. I salute this marine. Even though I was in the Army, I have to salute the general over here.

Before I close in support of this bill, Madam Speaker, I want to express my disappointment that we are not considering another bill, S. 3084, this afternoon as well.

S. 3084 would correct a technical error in current law that unless swiftly addressed will jeopardize the financial security of certain current and former senior leaders across the VA healthcare system and make it harder for VA to recruit and retain the necessary talent to serve our Nation's veterans.

In short, a provision of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010—and I remember that—is intended to raise the salary cap for employees serving our senior executive services-equivalent positions in the Veterans Health Administration. However, due to a recently realized error in the law, VA will have to cut pay and issue debts for 30 current and 10 former senior leaders in those positions unless Congress acts to make the necessary corrections which S. 3084 will do.

This was no fault of the Members. All of the employees who are impacted by this technical error serve in high-level, mission-critical leadership positions working on issues like suicide prevention, mental health, women's health, and more. We should be encouraging and supporting these leaders, not leaving them in limbo.

What is more, our failure to address this issue in a timely manner is actively making it harder for VA to recruit candidates to fill important vacancies across the country.

Madam Speaker, S. 3084 passed the Senate on January 16. We could have taken it up and passed it many times over by now. If we had, those leaders would be resting a lot easier, and those vacancies could have been filled. I urge Speaker PELOSI and Chairman TAKANO not to delay any longer and to schedule S. 3084 for floor time as soon as possible.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairman TAKANO for his leadership on all these bills we brought here. They are all very needed, and I appreciate the gentleman bringing them up in a timely fashion. I absolutely endorse all of those today, and I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 561, as amended.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to reiterate my support for H.R. 561. I want to appreciate the work with the minority. We have worked together to pass these five pieces of legislation on the floor. It is another demonstration of our commitment to put veterans above partisanship and to put the interests of America above partisanship.

Madam Speaker, I can't tell you what a privilege it is to chair this committee. I urge all my colleagues to pass H.R. 561, as amended, and 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. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 561, 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.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO UKRAINE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-102)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, with respect to Ukraine is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2020.

The actions and policies of persons that undermine democratic processes and institutions in Ukraine; threaten its peace, security, stability, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and contribute to the misappropriation of its assets, and the actions and policies of the Government of the Russian Federation, including its purported annexation of Crimea and its use of force in Ukraine, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13660 with respect to Ukraine.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 25, 2020.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO CUBA AND OF THE EMERGENCY AUTHORITY RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF THE ANCHORAGE AND MOVEMENT OF VESSELS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-103)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GARCIA of Texas) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Cuba that was declared on March 1, 1996, in Proclamation 6867, as amended by Proclamation 7757 on February 26, 2004, Proclamation 9398 on February 24, 2016, and Proclamation 9699 on February 22, 2018, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2020.

It continues to be United States policy that a mass migration from Cuba would endanger the security of the United States by posing a disturbance or threatened disturbance of the international relations of the United States. The Cuban government has not demonstrated that it will refrain from the use of excessive force against United States vessels or aircraft that may engage in memorial activities or peaceful protest north of Cuba. Further, the unauthorized entry of United States-registered vessels into Cuban territorial waters continues to be detrimental to United States foreign policy and counter to the purpose of Executive Order 12807 of May 24, 1992, which is to ensure, among other things, safe, orderly, and legal migration. The possibility of large-scale unauthorized entries of United States-registered vessels would disturb the international relations of the United States by facilitating a possible mass migration of Cuban nationals. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Cuba and the emergency authority relating to the regulation of the anchorage and movement of vessels set out in Proclamation 6867, as amended by Proclamation 7757, Proclamation 9398, and Proclamation 9699.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 25, 2020.