

missed those votes on medical liability reform as they came up in the other body.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of defensive medicine, not just the cost of liability insurance for doctors, but the cost of defensive medicine in this country in a 1996 Stanford University study was estimated to be \$50 billion a year to the Medicare system, not the private health insurance system, but to the Medicare system alone.

Mr. Speaker, we can no longer afford this. The whole problem with the uninsured and access to health care for all Americans languishes because we have not taken conclusive action on medical liability reform. Again, let me stress we have a President who will sign that legislation into law. We have a candidate for President who is on record as voting "no."

THE LOSS OF MANUFACTURING JOBS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans promised us they would create jobs, but their failed policies have left our economy weaker. We have lost 2.8 million manufacturing jobs, the largest decline in over 80 years. We have not seen one month of manufacturing job growth since George Bush took office, and Republicans have no plan to create jobs.

For years the Republicans have used their power to provide tax breaks and special deals for corporate interests, standing back while thousands of good-paying manufacturing jobs were shipped overseas. And now the American workers that have built these companies are paying the price.

Democrats want to build a stronger economy and jump-start our manufacturing sector by cutting taxes for domestic manufacturers and helping them create good-paying jobs here in the United States, and we want to end unfair tax breaks that would allow corporations to keep their money and their workers overseas. That is just wrong.

We want to stand up for American workers by enforcing the trade agreements that President Bush has not.

Mr. Speaker, why are Republicans stalling? What are they waiting for? They should simply bring up the Crane-Rangel bipartisan solution to cut taxes for domestic manufacturers and help them create good-paying jobs here in the United States. That is the answer, and it is simple.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas

and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

RHODE ISLAND VETERANS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3942) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7 Commercial Boulevard in Middletown, Rhode Island, as the "Rhode Island Veterans Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3942

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

SECTION 1. RHODE ISLAND VETERANS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7 Commercial Boulevard in Middletown, Rhode Island, is hereby redesignated as the "Rhode Island Veterans Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Rhode Island Veterans Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I rise in support of H.R. 3942. This legislation redesignates the U.S. Postal Service facility at 7 Commercial Boulevard in Middletown, Rhode Island, as the Rhode Island Veterans Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's Armed Forces are comprised of dedicated, skilled, and courageous individuals from all 50 States and every territory. Today, I am pleased to take time along with my colleagues to honor those who have served our Nation from the State of Rhode Island.

According to the 2000 census data, over 102,000 veterans live in Rhode Island, comprising 13 percent of the adult population of the State. This post office designation in Middletown is intended as a tribute to those 102,000 Rhode Islanders.

As we all know, U.S. military men and women remain engaged today in

the war on terror in faraway places like Afghanistan and Iraq. Here at home we can never give too much back to our brave active duty personnel or our veterans to whom we owe our Nation's freedom. That is why I am pleased that the House is considering H.R. 3942 today. I ask all Members to support its swift passage.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) for his work to honor our Nation's military service veterans from the great State of Rhode Island.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY), who is also the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for allowing me this time. I also want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON), for also acknowledging me and recognizing this piece of legislation, and also my friend, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) from the other side of the aisle for being here as well.

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As the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) mentioned, there are over 100,000 veterans living in my State of Rhode Island; and we are proud to support a few veterans from World War I and almost 40,000 from World War II. Rhode Island has close to 30,000 from Vietnam and roughly 20,000 from the Korean War. And more recently, Rhode Island is home to 4,000 veterans from the Persian Gulf War. Just a few weeks ago, 300 soldiers from Rhode Island's Military Police returned from Iraq.

These men and women come from different backgrounds and they live in different cities and towns and many of them are still working and also many of them are retired. But the one thing that they have in common is they have fought for this country to preserve the freedom of our Nation. They have all put their lives on the line in the name of democracy, and if they were not standing post in the front lines, they signed up and they could well have been put on the front lines. So all veterans, whether serving stateside or overseas, deserve our recognition.

Our Nation's veterans have answered the call to duty and have served our country in times of greatest need.

During my time in Congress I have had the honor to meet with several of Rhode Island's veterans, and I discovered that every time I sit down with one of them, I hear another fascinating story. Like Ray's story, a World War II veteran living in Lincoln, Rhode Island. He was the only man from an 11-member crew to survive. He remembers falling from the plane and landing in his parachute in a group of trees on a snowy mountainside, but he does not remember anything after that. Next