

Jason L. Dunham, were all posthumous recipients of the Medal of Honor for their incredible bravery in service to our country and their fellow men in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In recognition of their exceptional service, Medal of Honor recipients are entitled to a special pension, as first authorized by Congress in 1916. Currently, the 100 living recipients received an inflation-adjusted \$1,000 per month. H.R. 6980 will increase the base payment to \$2,000 per month, subject to appropriations. This benefit will act as the smallest token of appreciation to people who have shown the greatest possible devotion to their fellow soldiers and to their country.

Madam Speaker, this legislation would not have come to the floor today without the support of my good friends, Chairman FILNER, Ranking Member BUYER and Chairman MICHAUD.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6980.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. I urge my colleagues to unanimously support this very important legislation, H.R. 6980.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6980, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the amount of the Medal of Honor special pension provided under that title by up to \$1,000.

The Medal of Honor is the Nation's highest award for military valor. It is presented by the President in the name of Congress, and is often called the Congressional Medal of Honor. Since its first presentation in 1863, over 3,467 Medals of Honor have been awarded to a total of 3,448 individuals (there have been 19 double recipients).

Under current law, a veteran who has been awarded a Medal of Honor is eligible for a monthly pension (\$1,129 as of December 1, 2007). Eligibility for the pension is based solely on receipt of the Medal of Honor, and the recipient of the Medal of Honor must elect to receive the special pension. Receipt of this pension does not reduce any other benefits under U.S. law, and a veteran who has received more than one Medal of Honor is limited to receiving only one Medal of Honor pension benefit.

The legislation before us would increase the rate of this special pension by not more than \$1,000, subject to appropriations. In an informal estimate provided to my office, the total cost of this bill would be \$6 million over 5 years. The authority provided to the Secretary to expend the funds provided for this purposes would expire on September 30, 2013. After expending any funds appropriated for this purpose, the Secretary would not be authorized to further increase the rate of the special monthly pension.

Madam Speaker, over the years, it has been the honor of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to name facilities after a number of Medal of Honor recipients, many of whom have passed on, but 100 still remain with us and walk as humble heroes among a grateful people. We can never thank these heroes enough for all they have given to protect our freedom and security. The special pension increase seems like a small amount compared to the price these warriors have paid.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. FILNER. 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. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6980.

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.

PERMISSION TO CONSIDER AS ADOPTED MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to suspend the rules relating to the following measures be considered as adopted in the form considered by the House on Monday, September 22, 2008, or Tuesday, September 23, 2008, as applicable:

H.R. 160, H.R. 2933, H.R. 4828, H.R. 6323, H.R. 2994, and H.R. 1532.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, respective motions to reconsider are laid on the table.

There was no objection.

GRAMM-LEACH-BLILEY

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to place in the RECORD remarks that I made in 1999 regarding a measure called the Gramm-Leach-Bliley bill that passed in this Congress on a vote of 362-57. At the time we said it would cause the mess we're facing today on Wall Street and indeed it has.

I will place also in the RECORD the votes of those who were present voting "yes" and voting "no."

This is an extraordinarily important vote that essentially unharnessed Wall Street to do whatever it wanted, mixing banking, commerce, real estate, insurance in a way America had not done for over half a century.

Some of what I said at that time was, "I would say to the people listening tonight, are you tired of calling banks and getting lost in the automated phone system, never locating a breath-

ing human being? This bill will make it worse.

"Are you fed up with rising ATM fees and service fees that now average over \$200 a year per account holder? This bill will make it worse.

"Are you tired of mega-financial conglomerates and mergers that have made your community a branch economy of financial centers located far away whose officers you never know who never come to your community? This bill will make it worse."

I would urge my colleagues to take a look at the remarks that were made over a decade ago and think about what we are facing today. I commend all of my colleagues who voted "no" in those days. They deserve a badge of honor.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and in opposition, strong opposition, to the bill. This bill is pro megabank and it is against consumers.

And I would say to the people listening tonight, Are you tired of calling banks and getting lost in the automated phone system, never locating a breathing human being? This bill will make it worse.

Are you fed up with rising ATM fees and service fees that now average over \$200 a year per account holder? This bill will make it worse.

Are you skeptical about banks that used to be dedicated to safety and soundness and savings but are now switching to pushing stocks and insurance and debt? This bill will make it worse.

Are you tired of the megafinancial conglomerates and mergers that have made your community a branch economy of financial centers located far away, whose officers you never know, who never come to your community? This bill will make it worse.

Punitive reporting requirements in this bill are aimed at disabling community groups that are the only groups in this country that hold these institutions accountable for the depositors' money. It is going to make them a target of Federal reporting requirements. So why do community groups oppose this bill, like the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs, the Fair Housing Alliance, the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, the Coalition of Community Development Financial Institutions, Consumers Union, the Volunteers of America? Sounds like the folks that live in my neighborhood, my colleagues.

I would say this is one of the worst conceived bills ever to come before this body, simply because it does not pay attention to the majority of the American people who have, on average, less than \$2,000 in any financial institution in this country. To anyone listening tonight I say, Put your money in the credit unions. They are owned by you and they will take care of you. Vote against this bill.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 362, nays 57, not voting 15, as follows:

From Nov. 4, 1999 [Roll No. 570]

YEAS—362

Abercrombie	Andrews	Baird
Ackerman	Archer	Baker
Aderholt	Armey	Baldacci
Allen	Bachus	Ballenger

Barcia Frost
 Barr Gallegly
 Barrett (NE) Ganske
 Bartlett Gekas
 Bass Gephardt
 Bateman Gibbons
 Becerra Gilchrest
 Bentsen Gillmor
 Berkley Gilman
 Berman Gonzalez
 Berry Goode
 Biggert Goodlatte
 Bilbray Goodling
 Billirakis Gordon
 Bishop Goss
 Blagojevich Graham
 Bliley Granger
 Blumenauer Green (TX)
 Blunt Green (WI)
 Boehlert Greenwood
 Boehner Gutknecht
 Bonilla Hall (OH)
 Bonior Hall (TX)
 Bono Hansen
 Borski Hastert
 Boswell Hastings (WA)
 Boucher Hayes
 Boyd Hayworth
 Brady (TX) Herger
 Brown (FL) Hill (IN)
 Brown (OH) Hill (MT)
 Bryant Hilleary
 Burr Hilliard
 Burton Hinojosa
 Buyer Hobson
 Callahan Hoeffel
 Calvert Hoekstra
 Camp Holden
 Canady Holt
 Cannon Hooley
 Capps Horn
 Cardin Hostettler
 Carson Houghton
 Castle Hoyer
 Chabot Hulshof
 Chambliss Hunter
 Chenoweth-Hage Hutchinson
 Clayton Hyde
 Clement Isakson
 Clyburn Istook
 Coble Jackson-Lee
 Coburn (TX)
 Collins Jefferson
 Combest Jenkins
 Cook John
 Cooksey Johnson (CT)
 Cox Johnson, E. B.
 Cramer Johnson, Sam
 Crane Jones (NC)
 Crowley Jones (OH)
 Cubin Kasich
 Cummings Kelly
 Cunningham Kennedy
 Danner Kilpatrick
 Davis (FL) Kind (WI)
 Davis (VA) King (NY)
 Deal Kingston
 DeGette Kleczka
 Delahunt Klink
 DeLay Knollenberg
 DeMint Kolbe
 Deutsch Kuykendall
 Diaz-Balart LaFalce
 Dicks LaHood
 Doggett Lampson
 Dooley Lantos
 Doolittle Largent
 Doyle Latham
 Dreier LaTourette
 Duncan Lazio
 Dunn Leach
 Ehlers Levin
 Ehrlich Lewis (CA)
 Emerson Lewis (KY)
 Engel Linder
 English LoBiondo
 Eshoo Lofgren
 Etheridge Lowey
 Everett Lucas (KY)
 Ewing Lucas (OK)
 Farr Maloney (CT)
 Fletcher Maloney (NY)
 Foley Manzullo
 Forbes Mascara
 Ford Matsui
 Fossella McCarthy (MO)
 Fowler McCarthy (NY)
 Franks (NJ) McCollum
 Frelinghuysen McCreery

McGovern
 McHugh
 McIntosh
 McIntyre
 McKeon
 McNulty
 Meehan
 Meeks (NY)
 Menendez
 Metcalf
 Millender-
 McDonald
 Miller (FL)
 Miller, Gary
 Minge
 Mink
 Moakley
 Moore
 Moran (KS)
 Moran (VA)
 Morella
 Murtha
 Myrick
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Nethercutt
 Northup
 Nussle
 Oberstar
 Olver
 Ortiz
 Ose
 Owens
 Oxley
 Packard
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor
 Payne
 Pease
 Pelosi
 Peterson (MN)
 Peterson (PA)
 Petri
 Pickering
 Pickett
 Pitts
 Pombo
 Pomeroy
 Porter
 Portman
 Price (NC)
 Pryce (OH)
 Quinn
 Rahall
 Ramstad
 Rangel
 Regula
 Reyes
 Reynolds
 Riley
 Roemer
 Rogan
 Rogers
 Rohrabacher
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Rothman
 Roukema
 Royce
 Ryan (WI)
 Ryan (KS)
 Sabo
 Salmon
 Sanchez
 Sandlin
 Sawyer
 Saxton
 Schaffer
 Scott
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Shadegg
 Shaw
 Shays
 Sherman
 Sherwood
 Shimkus
 Shows
 Lucas (OK)
 Simpson
 Sisisky
 Skeen
 Skelton
 Slaughter
 Smith (MI)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Smith (WA)
 Snyder

Souder
 Spence
 Spratt
 Stabenow
 Stearns
 Stenholm
 Strickland
 Stump
 Stupak
 Sununu
 Sweeney
 Talent
 Tancredo
 Tanner
 Tauscher
 Tauzin
 Terry
 Thomas
 Thompson (CA)

Thompson (MS)
 Thornberry
 Thune
 Tiahrt
 Toomey
 Towns
 Traficant
 Turner
 Udall (CO)
 Udall (NM)
 Upton
 Velazquez
 Vento
 Visclosky
 Vitter
 Walden
 Walsh
 Wamp
 Watkins

Watt (NC)
 Watts (OK)
 Weiner
 Weldon (FL)
 Weldon (PA)
 Weller
 Wexler
 Weygand
 Whitfield
 Wicker
 Wilson
 Wise
 Wolf
 Wu
 Wynn
 Young (AK)
 Young (FL)

NAYS—57

Baldwin
 Barrett (WI)
 Barton
 Brady (PA)
 Campbell
 Capuano
 Clay
 Condit
 Conyers
 Costello
 Coyne
 Davis (IL)
 DeFazio
 DeLauro
 Dingell
 Dixon
 Edwards
 Evans
 Fattah

Meek (FL)
 Mica
 Miller, George
 Obey
 Phelps
 Rivers
 Rodriguez
 Roybal-Allard
 Rush
 Sanders
 Sanford
 Schakowsky
 Serrano
 Taylor (MS)
 Thurman
 Tierney
 Waters
 Waxman
 Woolsey

NOT VOTING—15

Bereuter
 Dickey
 Kanjorski
 Larson
 Martinez
 McInnis
 Mollohan
 Ney
 Norwood
 Paul
 Radanovich
 Scarborough
 Shuster
 Stark
 Taylor (NC)

FINANCIAL BAILOUT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it's been a few short days since we first got news of the administration's \$700 billion plan to bail out the financial industry.

In large part, the root cause of our current crisis is the mismanagement, failure and political cronyism at government-backed lenders, Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. Some people are hoping to use Americans' tax dollars to bring about a government-backed solution to a problem that was essentially caused by decades of government incompetence.

An article in Bloomberg entitled *How the Democrats Created the Financial Crisis* and the transcript from Fox News tonight shed much light on how Republicans warned of the impending problem and the responsibility of Democrats for the problem.

I've heard a lot of talk about bailing out those who made very risky, even reckless decisions. My question is, what about all the American taxpayers who played by the rules? Who's going to bail them out?

□ 2100

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KAGEN). Under the Speaker's an-

nounced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be here on the floor this evening during Hispanic Heritage Month to honor the Hispanic community and pay tribute to the extraordinary contributions that Hispanics have made and continue to make to our great Nation.

There are 45.5 million Hispanics in America whose hard work, strong faith and closely knit families have made America a better and stronger country. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor some of the Hispanic leaders in my congressional district who selflessly serve our communities with diligence and passion.

Leaders including Joel Arredondo, president of the Lorain City Council and president of the Coalition of Hispanic Issues in Progress. Joel is an active leader in our community, and as a result, last year the Lorain County Urban League honored him as the Community Leader of the Year.

Pastor Gilbert Silva is the pastor at House of Praise in Lorain, Ohio. Pastor Silva has touched the lives of many people through his thoughtful sermons and one-on-one interaction with his parishioners.

Celestino Rivera, chief of police for the City of Lorain. Chief Rivera serves in his position with professionalism and integrity in his mission to protect and serve our community.

First Sergeant Sam Obechi teaches the Honor Guard at the Southview School Army Junior ROTC. Not only has Sergeant Obechi selflessly served our country, he serves our community and our Nation by teaching young men and women how to prepare for college and the Armed Services.

Victor Leandry, director of El Centro Social Services, which is a regional affiliate for the National Council of La Raza. His commitment to the community is seen through his work in civil rights, social justice, community development, and education.

Nellie Carraballo is a member of Steelworkers Local 1104. I had the honor of serving on a panel with Nellie recently to discuss the so-called U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement. Nellie has helped educate many in my community by sharing the worker's rights violations that she witnessed while she was on a trip to Colombia.

Laura Rios, director of a community grassroots organization in my district called Reclaim Lorain. Laura and her group have energized the community through their local initiatives, such as their campaign encouraging people to vote.