

The way that can be handled is under article V. It's the part of article V that has never been used before, and that is the part that says that if two-thirds of the States—that's 34—make an application to the Congress for a convention to make amendments to the Constitution, it has to be provided, and then you have a convention and you create an amendment, one or two, whatever is necessary, to finally put back in place, after 97 years, a check and balance on this body usurping powers granted to the States and reserved to the people.

It's high time that's done. It doesn't need the President's authorization, so there's no need for an override of a veto if he doesn't let it happen. We will probably need people who would be open to that idea in charge here in this House, but it needs to happen so that we don't keep this train running so fast down the track the wrong way that it derails and takes the Nation with it.

We cannot continue this kind of unfunded mandate. It's time for an amendment to the Constitution to put a check back on our unbridled usurpation of States' rights, and I look forward to that happening. We've got 39 States that want to do something about this unholy bill that was passed. Well, this is what they can do, and we can change things and get back on track.

IN RECOGNITION OF KEN BROWN

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I am absolutely delighted to be here with my colleague DINA TITUS from Nevada, and I rise today to honor the dedication and service of a true veterans' advocate, Kenneth Brown.

From 1943 to 1945, Mr. Brown served in the United States Navy during World War II as a United States Navy Armed Guard gunner's mate. After receiving an honorable discharge, Mr. Brown dedicated his life to improving the quality of life for Nevada military veterans and their families.

In 1987—and this is just an extraordinary act that he performed—Mr. Brown purchased 83½ acres of land in Boulder City, Nevada. He donated this parcel to the State of Nevada, encouraging the State to use this land to build a veterans cemetery.

On April 6, 1990, Mr. Brown's dream was realized and the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery was officially dedicated. His generous donation and tireless efforts helped Nevada provide its veterans a final resting place in dignity, respect, and honor.

In recognition of his contribution, the Governor declared April 6, 1990, as "Ken Brown Day." Mr. Brown has received countless honors paying tribute to his 50 years of service to Nevada veterans and their families, including the key to the city of Las Vegas for heroism and vision in supporting veterans

in Nevada, and the God and Country Award from the United States Navy Armed Guard.

It is truly an honor for me to stand here today and recognize my friend, and he truly is my friend, Mr. Ken Brown, for all of his work that he has done for the veterans community and for helping to bring a veterans cemetery to southern Nevada, where all veterans and their spouses can be buried with dignity.

I cannot tell you how many times I have seen Mr. Brown at our VA cemetery in Boulder City honoring our war dead and being there as an inspiration to those veterans who came home, served their country admirably, and will one day be at that cemetery. He has done a wonderful thing for not only the State of Nevada, not only its veterans, but for mankind.

Mr. Ken Brown, I salute you and I thank you. My respect and admiration are yours today.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concern with a Department of Defense policy that has taken jobs away from hardworking Americans in the textile, apparel, and footwear industry at a time when they need these jobs most.

DOD is allowed to purchase textile, apparel, and footwear products from an organization called Federal Prison Industries, an entity that uses prisoners in U.S. jails as labor.

In the 2008 Defense authorization bill, Congress required the Department of Defense to implement strict rules to govern its use of Federal Prison Industries. Congress took that action so DOD would not unfairly exploit its access to virtually free prison labor and put law-abiding U.S. textile, apparel, and footwear workers out of work in the process.

Unfortunately, DOD has not followed congressional intent and has written those rules to include loopholes that give Federal Prison Industries an unfair advantage.

I am going to repeat that, Madam Speaker, because I think it's important.

Unfortunately, Department of Defense has not followed congressional intent and has written those rules to include loopholes that give Federal Prison Industries an unfair advantage.

It is very troubling that a Federal agency would not follow the will of the Congress and, instead, establish policy that destroys American jobs and the industrial base on which it depends.

Madam Speaker, over the past 17 years, the United States has lost over 29 percent of its manufacturing base. That's over 5 million jobs. When do we say enough is enough?

Madam Speaker, it is unacceptable for a Federal agency to adopt policies that cause even more manufacturing job losses. For the good of American workers in the textile, apparel, and footwear industries, I encourage the Department of Defense to reconsider its approach to this issue.

Madam Speaker, at a time that this country owes China over \$800 billion, we borrow money from the UAE, we borrow money from Japan, and here we are trying to put our textile workers out of work by having a Federal industry known as the Prison Industries to be competitors to the American worker is just wrong.

Madam Speaker, before I close, I will ask God to continue to bless our men and women in uniform. I will ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I would ask God in his loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. I will ask God to please bless the House and Senate that we will do what is right for this country. And I will ask God to give wisdom, strength, and courage to President Obama that he will do what is right for the American people.

I will then say, three times, God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

□ 1700

HONORING KEN BROWN—"MR. VETERAN"

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

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ken Finis Brown, affectionately known throughout Nevada as "Mr. Veteran."

As my colleague SHELLEY BERKLEY pointed out just a few moments ago, Mr. Brown was instrumental in providing a final sacred resting place for Nevada's veterans in 1987 when he donated the necessary funding for the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Mr. Brown personally donated the funding to purchase 83.5 acres of land in Boulder City in District Three that now serves as a cemetery for Nevada's fallen heroes. Our Mr. Veteran worked tirelessly so that military veterans in southern Nevada would have a dignified final resting place in our home State, close to their loved ones.

This unyielding effort was formally recognized by the State of Nevada when it declared April 6, 1990, "Ken Brown Day." On that same day, the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery was officially dedicated. Everyone in southern Nevada knows that this project would never have been completed without the hard work and dedication of Ken Brown.

This was just one of many awards and commendations that our Mr. Veteran has received, including a proclamation of heroism from Clark County,