

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman that I have said to the chairman of the Financial Services Committee, Mr. HENSARLING, that I will look to him and his leadership on that issue as the committee works its way through the varying issues and the Member positions that are out there, and I will look to see what the Financial Services Committee does.

Mr. HOYER. I understand that comment. I also understand that the chairman of the Financial Services Committee is opposed to the Export-Import Bank. He has said that publicly.

So I would hope, at some point in time, again, that the majority of the House could work its will because I do not believe that the chairman of the Financial Services Committee represents the majority of this House in this instance.

Therefore, I am hopeful that we can move forward and that I can work with the majority leader's office, as we did with the last authorization, to reach that objective.

Mr. Speaker, unless the majority leader asks me to yield, I yield back the balance of my time.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 3 p.m. tomorrow; when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at noon on Tuesday, May 27, 2014; and when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at noon on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

NATIONAL SULLIVAN CUP ARMOR COMPETITION

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate four members of the Pennsylvania National Guard who placed among the top four teams in the national Sullivan Cup armor competition, held on May 11-15 of this year, in Fort Benning, Georgia.

Sergeant First Class Bryan Bailey, Sergeant Michael Schultz, Specialist Timothy Humpal, and Specialist Zachary Zondry represented the 3-103rd Armor Battalion, 55th Armored Brigade, 28th Infantry Division, who came in fourth out of only 17 U.S. Army, Marine Corps, and Canadian tank crews.

The toughness, skill level, and experience demonstrated by our Guard soldiers is further proof that the 55th Armored Brigade not only is one of the elite brigades in the entire U.S. Army, but that the Guard is—absolutely is—ready, trained, and capable.

□ 1245

REBUILDING THE VA

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue to call for action to address problems we face at VA clinics all across the country. This issue hits home for the folks I represent in Georgia, where three veterans have died and many more have seen their condition worsen because of inadequate health care.

This isn't going to go anywhere until we get serious about holding someone accountable. Regrettably, that should start with Secretary Eric Shinseki. General Shinseki has done a tremendous service for this country, and while he has tried to do some good things at the VA during his time, other veterans aren't getting the most basic benefits they have earned.

Literally, months have passed, and to this day no one has been held responsible, no solution has been found, and getting information from the VA is like pulling teeth.

The folks I represent want answers, and Secretary Shinseki stepping down should be the start of a nationwide effort to rebuild the VA, because that is what our veterans deserve.

HOUSE PASSAGE OF MEPS ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that last night, the language that Representative TIM RYAN of Ohio and I introduced in March, H.R. 4305, the Medical Evaluation Parity for Servicemembers Act, or MEPS Act, was included as an amendment in the National Defense Authorization Act. This bipartisan legislation passed the full House this morning.

While our military has made great strides to address issues of mental illness, large gaps exist in this response that we must fill. Given these challenges and in light of the tragic events such as those at Fort Hood, we must and can do more.

Today, military recruits must undergo comprehensive physical evaluations. But what some are surprised or even shocked to hear is that currently no similar exam exists for mental competency.

The MEPS Act institutes a preliminary mental health assessment for all incoming recruits. This bill will offer our military an important tool and move us to a more comprehensive and effective approach to suicide prevention and detection.

I applaud my colleagues for joining us in support of this bill and encourage the Senate to take action on this important reform.

NATIONAL MARITIME DAY

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Maritime Day, an opportunity for us to celebrate and salute our mariners who have protected this great Nation.

Since the early days of this Nation, the United States Merchant Marine has been the foundation of our economic security, serving as our "fourth arm of defense" in both peace and war. They have been essential in bringing food to the world's hungry and delivering supplies to our brave men and women overseas in times of war. They have done so much for our Nation.

Today, on National Maritime Day, we take this opportunity to honor their service and sacrifice.

Over 200,000 Merchant Mariners served in World War II, and more than 8,000 lost their lives in enemy waters, a rate higher than any uniformed service. Unfortunately, these brave men were not eligible for the GI Bill that helped millions of veterans go to college and buy a home.

That is why I have introduced the Honoring our World War II Merchant Mariners Act of 2013. This bill would provide just \$1,000 in monthly benefits to the nearly 10,000 surviving World War II Mariners.

I would like to give a shout out to the American Merchant Marine Veterans Memorial Committee in San Pedro that is honoring our Merchant Mariners.

DOTCOM ACT

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Chairman MCKEON for supporting Congressmen SHIMKUS, ROKITA, and me, in support of adding the DOTCOM Act as an amendment to our National Defense Authorization Act.

I support a free market multistakeholder model of Internet governance. In a perfect world, ICANN AND IANA would be free of government control and fully privatized. However, we don't live in a perfect world, and we know full well that China and Russia have a different view of perfection and are willing to aggressively pursue it. Their end goal is to have ICANN and IANA functions migrate to the U.N.'s ITU.

Passage of today's NDAA and inclusion of DOTCOM gives the multistakeholder model a chance to succeed, but it does so with congressional oversight. However, if we begin to sense—even for a minute—that that model isn't working, I will be the first Member to call on this body to taken stronger actions.

Again, I thank the chairman and my colleagues for bringing this about today.

ENDING THE WAR IN
AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, after more than a decade of war, the loss of 2,178 American heroes, thousands seriously injured, and the expenditure of nearly \$2 trillion, we must end our military presence in Afghanistan now, safely bring our troops home, and begin to focus on the urgent challenges we face here in America.

A sustainable, long-term peace can only be accomplished when the people of Afghanistan assume responsibility for their own security.

Yesterday, our colleague JIM MCGOVERN offered an amendment that directed the President to rapidly accelerate the transition of U.S. combat operations in Afghanistan to the Afghan government by December, and would have required congressional approval if the President sought to keep U.S. military forces in Afghanistan after that. Unfortunately, we were denied the right to have a debate and vote on this amendment.

We owe the brave men and women in uniform a clear plan to bring them home safely and soon and to end this war now.

After more than 12 years of war and the killing of Osama bin Laden, it is time to end the war in Afghanistan and instead focus our attention on creating jobs, rebuilding our infrastructure, providing care for our veterans, and focusing on the serious fiscal challenges facing our Nation.

HONORING DOUGLAS H. CAREY

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest condolences—and those of Florida's 13th Congressional District—to the family, friends, and fellow police officers of Mr. Douglas H. Carey, who tragically lost his life earlier this week.

Officer Carey began his service with the Clearwater Police Department as a patrolman on December 9, 1968. For nearly two decades, he assisted the people of Clearwater as a patrolman, a field training officer, and eventually as a detective. But his retirement from police work in 1987 was hardly the end of service.

Following his retirement, Officer Carey served on the security staff of Morton Plant Hospital. In 2010, he rejoined his brothers and sisters within the police department as a school crossing guard.

Officer Carey lost his life while doing what he loved and what he did best: protecting and serving his community. He was 70 years old.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor the life and service today of Officer Carey, who

is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Jean; his son, Brian; his daughter, Toni; and his young grandson, Dylan.

Officer Carey will be greatly missed, but his spirit lives on through the many, many lives he has touched in our community of Pinellas County, Florida.

TOURETTE SYNDROME
AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, last week, I had the opportunity to meet with a bright young boy who was diagnosed with Tourette syndrome and is working to bring attention to this disorder. His passion is an inspiration, and I want to share his own words about the importance of raising awareness.

Dear Congressman Luján. My name is Alexander Dennis. I live in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, and am 14 years old.

I grew up with a neurological disorder called Tourette syndrome. It causes me and about 200,000 others in the United States to make sudden movements and uncontrollable sounds. This disorder affects me daily and is a lifelong condition. There is no cure for Tourette syndrome.

I have to live daily with painful neck and full-body jerks. Others with this disorder have different severity levels and different types of movement. It is noticeable to others, but I do not know I am doing the movements sometimes.

There are not many doctors that are experienced with Tourette syndrome, and it took me 4 years to be properly diagnosed.

May 15 through June 15 is Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month, and I am writing to you because I am working to raise awareness to the challenges people face that have this syndrome. Any help that you can give will be greatly appreciated to me and all that suffer from this disorder.

Thank you, Alexander, for your voice and your efforts. I look forward to working with you on this issue.

BUDGET IMPACTS ON OUR
MILITARY

(Mr. NUNNELEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NUNNELEE. Mr. Speaker, the most important function of our government is to provide for the common defense. That is why I am pleased that the National Defense Authorization Act blocks the administration's end strength reduction proposal, as well as redistribution of important National Guard aviation assets. But I do have some specific concerns.

Of specific concern of this misguided and shortsighted proposal is the impact on the Mississippi National Guard's 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team. This unit has a proven history of defending freedom abroad. But recently, when our State was hit by devastating tornados, these were the first respond-

ers. They provided vital security and search and rescue. I commend these men and women that make up the 155th and express my concern for the support of their mission.

Congress cannot balance our budget on the backs of the men and women voluntarily serving our country, nor expect their families, who already give so much, to make further sacrifices.

To find areas within our Federal Government to responsibly cut, we must look at all forms of Federal spending, not just the discretionary spending alone.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, our veterans risked their lives in service of our Nation. When they come home, they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, especially by those they count on to provide them with essential medical care.

The disturbing reports about the unethical treatment of our military men and women by the VA is not only an affront to those that we count on to protect our freedoms and our liberties, it highlights a systemic lack of accountability, starting at the top and permeating throughout the agency.

Mr. Speaker, no veteran should pass away waiting for the care they need or the benefits that they deserve. The ineptitude of the VA is an affront to the sacrifice of the veterans who are turning to this agency for assistance and the taxpayers whose hard-earned dollars should be funding this worthy cause.

While this week the House took action to empower the VA to rid itself of those who fail to meet their responsibilities with the passage of the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act, there is still much work to be done.

I firmly believe that sunlight is the best disinfectant, and I will continue to work to shine a bright light on the situation until we can assure that the VA provides the service and respect that our veterans deserve.

HISTORIC PRAYER SERVICE

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the inspiring prayer service between Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew this Sunday at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem.

These two spiritual leaders of 1.5 billion Christians worldwide are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first historic meeting in Jerusalem between their predecessors: Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras in 1964.