

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, America needs a farm bill. The Senate has passed a farm bill. The House Agriculture Committee on a bipartisan basis has passed a farm bill, and that is not being brought to the floor for a vote.

We have a drought. It's the worst that we've seen in 50 years. We've got nutrition programs that need to be funded. We have environmental and conservation programs that need to be revised and passed. We have farmers across this land whose goal is to feed America, and they need a farm bill.

Never in the history of the United States Congress has a farm bill passed by the House Agriculture Committee not been brought to the floor for a vote. There's no question that a farm bill is contentious. It always is. But with FRANK LUCAS and COLLIN PETERSON, Republican leader and Democratic leader, and the Agriculture Committee working together, we got a bipartisan vote. Why is this not being brought to the floor?

That it's difficult is not a reason not to do it. Bring a farm bill and pass it.

#### WORLD WAR II VETERAN WILLIAM "BILL" KLING

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, the south Florida community recently lost a hero when World War II veteran William Kling passed away at the age of 84.

Bill Kling, a native New Yorker, served in the Navy during World War II. Throughout his life, he was an active member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Jewish War Veterans, and the Disabled American Veterans. For me, he was an inspiration and a friend.

However, Bill is best known for his role as the president of the Broward County Veterans Council for 27 years. Bill's activism led to building of an outpatient VA clinic in Broward County, a veterans nursing home in Pembroke Pines, and the opening of the South Florida National Cemetery in 2007.

So even as we mourn the loss of an incredible advocate, we know that Bill Kling's contributions live on in every veteran cared for at the outpatient clinic he helped to build, in every family who visits an elderly veteran residing at the nursing home he helped to establish, and in every prayer spoken at the national cemetery that he helped make possible.

I join with Bill's family in mourning his loss; but on this anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, I express the gratitude of our entire south Florida community that will long benefit from Bill Kling's tireless efforts to honor those who so bravely served our Nation.

#### ACT TOMORROW TO PASS FISA AMENDMENTS

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, today, September 11, 2012, is a beautiful day outside. The sun's in the cloudless sky, much like it was 11 years ago.

We remember those tragic criminal terrorist acts. We remember the heroism of those who responded. But there's something we can do more than just remember. There's something we can do in addition to the prayers that we offer. We can act tomorrow to pass the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act amendments which allow us to respond to the criticism rendered by the 9/11 Commission, that is, that we did not do enough to connect the dots of intelligence to warn us about that attack and future attacks.

The FISA amendments allow us to connect the dots so we can analyze those dots, so we can bring the intelligence to bear, so that we can protect our people with the courage and the bravery of those men and women who are in uniform, guided by the intelligence that we collect and that we apply. It is as strong a statement as we can make this week to ensure that we do not blind our eyes to that which is out there that may threaten us.

Let us work together in a bipartisan basis to pass that, and let us give those tools that are necessary to protect us.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). 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 incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

#### GOVERNMENT SPENDING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

Mr. WALSH of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4631) to amend title 5, United States Code, to institute spending limits and transparency requirements for Federal conference and travel expenditures, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4631

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Government Spending Accountability Act of 2012" or the "GSA Act of 2012".

#### SEC. 2. LIMITS AND TRANSPARENCY FOR CONFERENCE AND TRAVEL SPENDING.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5711 the following:

##### "§ 5712. Limits and transparency for conference and travel spending

"(a) CONFERENCE TRANSPARENCY AND SPENDING LIMITS.—

"(1) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF CONFERENCE MATERIALS.—Each agency shall post on the public website of that agency detailed information on any presentation made by any employee of that agency at a conference (except to the extent the head of an agency excludes such information for reasons of national security) including—

"(A) the prepared text of any verbal presentation made; and

"(B) any visual, digital, video, or audio materials presented, including photographs, slides, and audio-visual recordings.

"(2) LIMITS ON AMOUNT EXPENDED ON A CONFERENCE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an agency may not expend more than \$500,000 to support a single conference.

"(B) EXCEPTION.—The head of an agency may waive the limitation in subparagraph (A) for a specific conference after making a determination that the expenditure is justified as the most cost-effective option to achieve a compelling purpose. The head of an agency shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on any waiver granted under this subparagraph, including the justification for such waiver.

"(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to preclude an agency from receiving financial support or other assistance from a private entity to pay or defray the costs of a conference the total cost of which exceeds \$500,000.

"(b) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE RULE.—An agency may not pay the travel expenses for more than 50 employees of that agency who are stationed in the United States, for any international conference, unless the Secretary of State determines that attendance for such employees is in the national interest.

"(c) REPORT ON TRAVEL EXPENSES REQUIRED.—At the beginning of each quarter of each fiscal year, each agency shall post on the public website of that agency a report on each conference for which the agency paid travel expenses during the preceding 3 months that includes—

"(1) the itemized expenses paid by the agency, including travel expenses, and any agency expenditures to otherwise support the conference;

"(2) the primary sponsor of the conference;

"(3) the location of the conference;

"(4) the date of the conference;

"(5) a brief explanation of how the participation of employees from such agency at the conference advanced the mission of the agency;

"(6) the title of any employee, or any individual who is not a Federal employee, whose travel expenses or other conference expenses were paid by the agency;

"(7) the total number of individuals whose travel expenses or other conference expenses were paid by the agency; and

"(8) in the case of a conference for which that agency was the primary sponsor, a statement that—

"(A) describes the cost to the agency of selecting the specific conference venue;