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## *House of Representatives*

### Support Veterans Through Just Compensation

**HON. BOB FILNER**  
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Mr. FILNER:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman also for his leadership of the committee and thank the ranking member, the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. *Evans*.

As we have listed all the bills we have passed and the Senate has not, it is very disheartening. Maybe we all need to march over there as a group. Anyway, whatever support the chairman needs for getting some action, I am sure all of us on both sides of the aisle would be willing to join him, because he has led us through this whole year in a very incredibly effective way. We need to finish this year with some positive legislation, so please call on us if we can help in any way.

Mr. Speaker, clearly the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act is a very important piece of legislation. It is to make sure that our veterans who are receiving service-connected compensation benefits and their survivors who are receiving dependency and indemnity compensation do not fall further behind in their compensation. It will have the same percentage as the increase in benefits paid to Social Security beneficiaries.

Mr. Speaker, we know that ever since September 11 we have been especially grateful to our veterans and our public safety officers for their contributions to this Nation, contributions that make it possible for us to live and work in our democracy; but certainly this is something that we have to follow through on, not only just as we recall September 11. When they have become

disabled in their service to our Nation, it is our obligation to provide for these men and women when they have fulfilled their military duty.

It is important and vital that we continue to provide incentives for new recruits to our Armed Forces. We must let young men and women know that they, too, will be noticed, their dedication will be provided for, and a grateful Nation will not forget them.

The cost of housing, food, health care, all the basics of living are increasing, so an annual cost-of-living increase for our veterans is critically needed and one important way we can demonstrate our support and our thanks. Let us all vote for H.R. 4085.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my thanks to the thanks of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. *Evans*) to Beth, Beth Kilker, who is retiring. She has served, of course, as the executive assistant for our Subcommittee on Benefits, has kept us all in line and has kept us all moving and kept us all in good humor. She knew when to make sure we got all our work done, and she rewarded us with chocolates, sometimes, or other benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again thank Ms. Kilker for her service. I have heard the words "dedicated" and "effective," and I think that summarizes it. She has worked for veterans in the years that she has been with our committee. All the veterans of our Nation can join in thanking her for her effective service. I thank Beth Kilker.

