a State. For the young people who live in the District, it is an excellent program. I would urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I've traveled a long road with the District of Columbia Access Act—from March 1, 1999, when it was introduced, until the present day.

That road took us through the predecessor subcommittee I chaired at the time, to the full Government Reform Committee, to the House and Senate floor, and then to the White House, where then-President Clinton signed the measure on November 12, 1999.

In all of its legislative approvals the College Access Act—also known as the Tuition Assistance Grant Program—was passed unanimously, by voice vote. President Clinton had included sufficient money in his budget submission that year, and a statement of administration policy endorsed the approach we had taken in authorizing use of those funds.

I am deeply proud of our hard, bipartisan effort in enacting this measure and in reauthorizing it 2 years ago.

My thanks to ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, who was ranking member of the District of Columbia Subcommittee in 1999, and who has worked tirelessly to enhance this legislation ever since.

I would also like to thank my then-counterpart in the Senate, GEORGE VOINOVICH, for his continuing support, and Senators WARNER and DURBIN for working with us to improve this legislation.

I'm also grateful to my namesake Chairman DANNY DAVIS, chairman of the subcommittee, for holding a hearing on this bill March 22, ranking subcommittee member KENNY MARCHANT for his support, and Chairman WAXMAN for marking this bill up so expeditiously.

The 5-year reauthorizing legislation before us today will enable District residents to continue to attend colleges and universities at in-State rates. President Bush, in his budget submission for fiscal year 2008, has included sufficient funds to make this happen.

Then-Mayor Anthony Williams and now D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty have both strongly supported this law as being very important for District high school graduates. The Tuition Assistance Program has doubled the total number of District students attending college since 1999–2000, the school year before the program started. We have incentivized getting a college education.

This law is a classic ''leveling of the playing field.'' No city or county in the country is required to supplement in-State rates with local funds, and neither should the taxpayers in the Nation's capital be saddled with this burden. Neither should the city be penalized for its own success in administering this program.

Back on March 4, 1999, when I first introduced this bill, I went to nearby Eastern High School with Ms. NORTON. I was deeply moved by the reaction of the students. I will never forget how so many took our hands, looked into our eyes, and thanked us for introducing the original bill.

I'm proud of all we have been able to do in the Nation's capital since 1995, when the city was literally bankrupt. Economic development, public safety, the real estate market, and so many other aspects of city life have changed for the better.

But nothing has given me more satisfaction than working to improve educational opportunity. Fighting for equal educational opportunity is one of the reasons I entered public life.

We need a healthy city to have a healthy Washington region.

Reauthorizing this law, which has expanded higher educational choices, is a strong part of our vision for the future.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1124.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 223) supporting the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 223

Whereas the death of a loved one is a devastating experience, and the murder of a loved one is exceptionally difficult;

Whereas the friends and families of murder victims cope with grief through a variety of support services, including counseling, crisis intervention, professional referrals, and assistance in dealing with the criminal justice system; and

Whereas the designation of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims on September 25th of each year provides an opportunity for the people of the United States to honor the memories of murder victims and to recognize the impact on surviving family members: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims; and

(2) recognizes the significant benefits of the organizations that provide services to the loved ones of murder victims.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H. Res. 223, which supports the goals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims.

H. Res. 223, which has 59 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative JOHN SHADEGG from Arizona on March 7, 2007. H. Res. 223 was reported from the Oversight Committee on May 1, 2007 by a voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, in 2005, there were 16,692 murders and nine negligent manslaughters reported in our Nation. This is obviously too many murders. And so I support the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims and recognize all organizations that provide services, such as support, guidance and counseling, to the loved ones and friends of murder victims.

It is important that this day is not just a remembrance of those who tragically lost their lives, but a call to action. While some of us have not experienced acts of violence, we share responsibility to people who have lost their loved ones to murder. We should always reflect the moral virtues of respect and caring and sharing with one another, regardless of one's race, creed and national origin.

Of course, we remember the recent incidents that have just occurred at the university in Virginia. I also remember in my own neighborhood, where just last week a young man was killed on a bus. He turned out to be an absolute hero because he actually put himself in front of another student who was about to be shot. And of course that community and that family still grieves. So I urge that we all remember murder victims and their families by getting involved in our homes, communities, schools and businesses to prevent violence.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative SHADEGG from Arizona, for seeking to honor the memories of murder victims and recognize the impact on surviving family members.

I urge swift passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

With the recent tragedy of Virginia Tech fresh in our minds, we take this time to remember the many victims of needless violence in our country.

The devastation of families, victims and entire communities in which these tragedies occur is beyond calculation. Too often, victims' loved ones are left alone with their loss and feel overwhelmed with the devastating experience that has altered their lives forever.

No one should have to cope with that loss alone. In such crushing times as these, families and friends look for sources of strength to sustain themselves. They also need ongoing support in dealing with the criminal justice system, which can be especially overwhelming during this period of grief.

The need for sources of strength are often found through a variety of support services, including counseling, crisis intervention, professional referrals and assistance in dealing with the criminal justice system. These organizations play an essential role in preserving the memories of victims of murder.

After the story of the murder fades, victim's family and friends are often left to cope without their loved ones alone. Thankfully, these counseling organizations provide the necessary support to the families and friends of murder victims so they can continue with their daily lives.

These personal assaults on our citizens are also an assault on all of us. We must remain diligent in our efforts to curb violence. Our murder rate in this country is simply too high. People watch television, movies and play video games where murder is often glorified. Many of our youth engage in pastimes where they are exposed to violence at an early age. However, there is no age where it should be appropriate to introduce murder into anyone's life.

It is incumbent upon all of us to recognize the selfless support groups in our communities who work tirelessly to help the thousands of friends and families of murder victims in this country every year. For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 223.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG).

Mr. SHADEGG. I thank the gentleman for yielding and I thank my colleague from Illinois for his strong words of support.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 223, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims.

I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois and the gentleman from Georgia for their support, as well as the chairman of the full committee and the ranking member of the full committee.

This legislation is in fact very important to very many Americans; indeed, to, sadly, too many Americans.

I, along with my colleague, Mr. CHABOT of Cincinnati, Ohio, introduced this resolution on behalf of murder victims and their families across our Nation. H. Res. 223 does two simple things. First, it recognizes the many organizations that provide services to the loved ones of murder victims. As the two speakers before me have acknowledged, a victim of crime suffers greatly over and over again, and there are many organizations across our country that help them. The second thing this resolution does is it supports the establishment and urges the establishment of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims to be held on September 25th of each year.

I noted that in our prayer today we were called upon to thank God for our loved ones and our families. This bill is very much about those loved ones and those families who are left behind when a murder is committed and someone is taken from us as a result of violence.

On September 25, 1978, 19-year-old Lisa Hullinger was murdered by her boyfriend. Three months after her death, her parents formed the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio. Parents of Murdered Children earnestly advocates for the thousands of parents who have lost a child as a result of violence. Parents of Murdered Children is one of many organizations that do this work, that help the friends and that help the families to try to cope with the loss of a loved one.

Other organizations include the National Organization for Victim Assistance, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, as well as the National Crime Victim Law Institute. Each of these organizations plays a vital role, and there are so many others. This resolution not only honors Parents of Murdered Children, but all of the similar organizations providing support and assistance to the loved ones of murdered victims.

Mr. Speaker, since the introduction of this resolution I have received countless e-mails from all across the country, not just from my district, but from everywhere: from mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, husbands, wives and children of murder victims.

□ 1230

All of them have contacted me to say how much they appreciate what the United States House of Representatives is doing for them today. This legislation is indeed important.

We all know that there are established days of remembrance for many dark days in our Nation's history. There is, of course, one for 9/11. There is another one for the day of the Oklahoma City bombing. These were both solemn times in our Nation's history, and yet people are murdered every single day.

On 9/11, almost 3,000 Americans were brutally murdered. It is worth noting that every 10 weeks in this Nation, another almost 3,000 Americans are murdered. That is why I believe we need to establish a day that not only honors them and recognizes them, but also recognizes and honors the victims they leave behind, the family members, the fathers, the sons, the daughters, all of the others who suffer so much.

Each of us has a list of tragedies that we know of personally. My colleague from Illinois recited several. There are way too many.

I cannot rise today without thinking of Duane Lynn and his wife, Nila. Duane and Nila lived in a retirement community in north Phoenix after Duane retired from the Arizona Highway Patrol. One day they chose to attend a homeowners' association meeting in their neighborhood. Tragically, a killer walked into that meeting and senselessly murdered Nila. Nila died in Duane's arms. That was a crushing blow to him and a pain that he suffers every day.

But Duane took that negative pain and became an advocate for other victims. With his help, this Congress passed the Scott Campbell, Stephanie Roper, Wendy Preston, Louarna Gillis, Nila Lynn Crimes Victims Act of 2004.

I also think of Sally Goelzer, whose brother, Hal, was murdered in a gang initiation killing. Sally took the pain of that incident and went to work to fight for tougher laws against gangs and against gang killers.

I am also reminded of the incredible story of Colleen Campbell and her tireless work on behalf of victims, as well as that of her husband, Gary. Colleen tragically has lost not one family member, but three family members on three separate occasions to murder.

First, her son, Scott, was murdered. Then later her brother, well-known and famous in America for his work in auto racing, Mickey Thompson, was murdered. And then still later, her sister-in-law, Trudy Thompson, was murdered.

Colleen has spent 22 years in and out of various courtrooms in America dealing with the pain inflicted upon her by the murder of these three loved ones. Again, she has turned that negative pain into being a tireless advocate for victims and for victims rights. She was essential to the creation of victims rights legislation in California and she established Force 100, one of the earliest advocates for victims' rights across this Nation. Force 100 sought to create organizations in every single State in America to advocate for victims of crime.

There are so many stories. There are too many stories. But these victims and their courageous survivors need to know that we in the Congress, and we as a Nation, remember their tragedy and their courage.

Today, this Congress, this House, can do its part. We can say that too many of us have been affected by the horrors of murder, by passing this simple, yet very important, resolution, acknowledging that murdered individuals are not the only victims; that those left behind to cope with the loss on a daily basis are victims also.

We can tell them, however, that those family members and loved ones are not alone. We can recognize the many organizations that do invaluable work to help them. That is why this resolution not only acknowledges the murder victims, but also honors the organizations and the people who devote

their lives to counseling, crisis intervention, assistance and other help in getting those victims through our criminal justice system. The work of these organizations is so invaluable to so many.

The last organization I want to talk about is the National Crime Victim Law Institute at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. This organization, recently established, provides legal assistance to the victims of crime, and has established many programs in colleges across our country, and, I believe, in eight different law schools across our country, to help give legal assistance to the families and the loved ones of those murdered who are left behind.

H. Res. 223 lets victims, families and friends know that they are not alone, and that we remember their loved ones. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and honoring all of those men and women who have devoted their lives to helping those among us who have to cope with the senseless violence of a murdered loved one.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time. I urge all my colleagues to vote for H. Res. 223.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. To close, Mr. Speaker, let me just commend the gentleman from Arizona once again for his introduction of this resolution and his passionate statement in favor of its passage. I would certainly concur with everything that he has said and urge passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 223.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CLAUDE RAMSEY POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1260) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6301 Highway 58 in Harrison, Tennessee, as the ''Claude Ramsey Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1260

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

SECTION 1. CLAUDE RAMSEY POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6301 Highway 58 in Harrison, Tennessee, shall be known and designated as the ''Claude Ramsey Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Claude Ramsey Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 1260, which names a postal facility in Harrison, Tennessee, after Claude Ramsey.

H.R. 1260, which was introduced by Representative ZACH WAMP on March 1, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on May 1, 2007, by a voice vote. This measure has been cosponsored by the entire Tennessee congressional delegation.

Mr. Claude Ramsey is currently serving his third term as mayor of Hamilton County, Tennessee. Prior to becoming county mayor, he was the assessor of property, served on the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners, and was a member of the Tennessee State Legislature.

Mr. Ramsey's career as a public servant exemplifies diligence, hard work, and dedication to the people of Hamilton County.

Mr. Ramsey plays a pivotal role in the economic progress of Hamilton County. As a manager and leader, he has distinguished himself with his openness and availability to both the business community and the public. He has been honored with numerous awards and offices that reflect his dedication and service to his community. As a fiscal conservative, Mr. Ramsey encourages progress in Hamilton County through responsible investments in the growth of business and industry.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative ZACH WAMP for introducing this legislation and urge swift passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, County Mayor Claude Ramsey has a long list of accomplishments to show for his three terms as leader of Hamilton County, Tennessee. From reforming the public education system to creating jobs in the area, Mayor Ramsey has constantly addressed the needs of both the business community as well as the general public.

Mayor Ramsey turned Hamilton County's public education system into a model for other counties to follow. Mayor Ramsey rallied support from the neighborhoods. Nine thousand people participated in an education summit and task force to identify the issues and challenges facing the department. Eight key initiatives, including target graduation and reading rates, increased technology, and early education programs, were formed. When fully implemented, the county's public education system will be one of the very best in the country.

Mayor Ramsey is constantly looking for new business and industrial recruitment and has made economic expansion a priority during his administration. He was able to secure almost $3 million in grant funds for expansion of local industries, which led to hundreds of millions of private investment and the creation of 2,000 jobs. He was also able to receive funding for the Center for Entrepreneurial Growth, a program started by Mayor Ramsey, to create more technology-based jobs in the community.

Hamilton County has received high praise for the changes that have been made, for instance receiving an AA+ rating from Finch, Inc. In 2003, Mayor Ramsey was presented Chattanooga Area Manager of the Year, an award presented annually to an executive whose management skills have profoundly influenced the outstanding performance of a key element of American business, industry, government, or nonprofit activity.

Mayor Ramsey has also addressed important topics such as literacy, obesity, public littering, and the creation of parks.

Making himself open and available to the community, Mayor Ramsey is very active in local agencies, such as the Orange Grove Center and the chairman of the Board of Associates at Chattanooga State Technical Community College.

As Mayor Ramsey rounds out his third term as county mayor, he continues to be an active and committed leader to the citizens of Hamilton County. The programs which he has put into place will be his legacy. They will continue to provide for the community for decades in the future.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to point out that the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) would like to be here today to make a statement, but he had to remain home for a family emergency. We wish Mr. WAMP and his family the best.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 1260, which honors Mayor Ramsey for his admirable public service to the people of