"Yea"—H. Res. 257—Supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month (Representative PLATTS—Oversight and Government Reform).

"Yea"—H. Res. 643—Recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance, extending sympathies to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and their families, honoring the heroic actions of our Nation's first responders and Armed Forces, and reaffirming the commitment to defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges (Representatives HOYER and BOEHNER).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to official business in the 13th Congressional District of Michigan, I was unable to attend to several votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on final passage of H. Res. 257, Supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, and voted "yea" on House Resolution 643, which recognizes September 11 as a day of remembrance.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING 9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the House, as you know, we will not be in session tomorrow night.

Many of us remember some 6 years ago when we first had a meeting in the Capitol Police headquarters, many of us, after the traumatic morning and afternoon; and we resolved that we would show to the country a unity and a resolve that the terrorist attack would neither cow us nor deter us from the defense of freedom and liberty and our country and its people.

We are now, of course, 6 years later and continue to be involved in a battle to defeat those who by terror would intimidate us and hurt our people and our country and our way of life.

In a moment we will be led by Speaker PELOSI and Leader BOEHNER to the front steps of the Capitol. We will have a brief ceremony to again show to the country and, indeed, to the world that while we may have differences in debate, there are no differences in our unity of purpose to defend our country, our Constitution, and our people, and to ensure that the friends of liberty around the world will know that they have a friend in the United States of America.

So I would ask all of you to join us as Speaker PELOSI and Leader BOEHNER lead us out to the front steps on the House side. We will organize there, stand, and we will be led in the ''Star-Spangled Banner'' by the United States Marine Corps Band. We will have some comments by the Speaker and by the leader, and then we will conclude, as we did on that evening 6 years ago, with the singing of ''God Bless America.'' I think that was one of the most moving moments in my service in the House of Representatives. I am sure that many of you feel the same way.

So, Mr. Speaker, the House will remain in session, but we would ask all Members to join, as I said, Speaker PELOSI, Leader BOEHNER, and myself on the front steps of the Capitol. We will proceed now.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE UNJUST PROSECUTION OF FORMER BORDER PATROL AGENTS RAMOS AND COMPEAN

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 of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today is the 237th day of incarceration for two former U.S. Border Patrol agents. Agent Ramos and Compean were convicted in March of 2006 for shooting a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across our border into Texas. These agents have now been in prison for more than 7 months.

Since the agents' conviction, thousands of American citizens and dozens of Members of Congress have asked President Bush to pardon these two men. Mr. Speaker, many in this country are disappointed that the present sentence of Scooter Libby was commuted while these two law enforcement officers are still in prison. Mr. Libby did not spend one day in prison; yet two decorated Border Patrol agents with exemplary records, who were doing their duty to protect the American people from an illegal alien drug smuggler, are serving 11- and 12-year prison sentences. By attempting to apprehend an illegal alien drug smuggler, these agents were enforcing our laws, not breaking them.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Judiciary Chairman JOHN CONYERS for his concern and interest in this case. I also want to thank Foreign Affairs Subcommittee Chairman BILL DELAHUNT, who, prior to the August recess, held a hearing to examine the Mexican Government's influence in this case. I am hopeful that Chairman JOHN CONYERS will see to it that the House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing within the next 30 to 45 days to fully examine this case.

While the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on this case in July, additional questions remain about how this prosecution was initiated and how the U.S. Attorney's Office proceeded in this case. Since that time, it has become clear that not only did the prosecution prevent the jury from hearing evidence that the smuggler brought a second load of drugs across our border, but the smuggler was given free access to our country during and after the second smuggling incident.

The American people want to know, why did the U.S. Attorney's Office continue to prosecute these two border agents even after the credibility of the drug smuggler was shattered? This is a question that U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton needs to answer. By shedding light on the questionable actions of the prosecution in this case, I am hopeful that this gross miscarriage of justice can be corrected.

Before closing, Mr. Speaker, I call on the White House again to look seriously at the situation. These two border agents are Hispanic Americans who have served this Nation, and they have a right to justice. This is an example of an injustice.

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TRIBUTE TO FOUR OF NEWARK'S FINEST

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KAGEN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I come to the House floor today.

Over the August recess, four young, promising Newark, New Jersey residents were savagely gunned down execution style in a city playground while enjoying the last days of summer.

On August 14, 2007, in my city of Newark, Terrance Aeriel, age 18, Dashon Harvey and Iofemi Hightower, both age 20, were senselessly murdered. Natasha Aeriel, age 19, is still recovering in the hospital.

I stand here today to pay tribute to their lives. While three were cut short, were full of courage and determination and continue to inspire the residents of Newark.

Active in their community, these youths stayed above the fray. Dashon, Iofemi and Natasha were avid music lovers and played in their Newark High School marching bands while they attended high school. Terrance, full of charisma, became an ordained minister at age 13.

Their hard work paid off; all became students at Delaware State University. Natasha and Dashon were juniors, Terrance was a freshman, and Iofemi was about to begin classes.

In a testament to how they lived their lives, Natasha, who has undergone many major surgeries and is still