

through the city in support of the Special Olympics. As we all know, this program gives handicapped children and adults the opportunity to participate in athletic events.

Because of laws prohibiting open flames on Capitol Grounds, and because of safety concerns about activities taking place thereon, this resolution is necessary to permit the relay to occur. The resolution authorizes the Capitol Police Board to take necessary action to insure the safety of the Capitol, and the Architect of the Capitol may set forth conditions on participation in this event.

Activities will begin on Capitol Hill where the U.S. Capitol Police will host opening ceremonies and thereafter over 1,000 law enforcement officials will relay the torch through the city to Gallaudet University where the D.C. Special Olympics Summer Games will be held.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very worthwhile endeavor and I strongly encourage my colleagues to support the resolution which authorizes the event.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague in supporting use of the Capitol Grounds for the Special Olympics Torch Relay Run. As has been the custom, law enforcement officials from over 65 Federal and local agencies will relay the special olympics torch through the District to Gallaudet University to signal the beginning of the Special Olympics.

The event is scheduled this year for May 19. Since this date is a week from this Friday, we need to act on this legislation expeditiously.

This is a very worthwhile event which benefits not only the families and participants but also the volunteers and sponsors who contribute their time and efforts for handicapped children and adults.

I ask my colleagues to join in supporting this resolution.

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, the Special Olympics is a program which gives handicapped children and adults the opportunity to compete in sporting events and thereby enhance their self-esteem and self-image.

The Torch Relay Run through the Capitol Grounds is an annual event which this committee has traditionally supported and I am very pleased once again to support the resolution authorizing use of the grounds for this very worthwhile endeavor.

I commend both the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST], chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Economic Development, and the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE], the subcommittee's ranking Democrat for moving this resolution in a timely fashion. The event is scheduled for May 19.

I join my colleagues in urging passage of this resolution.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 64

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF RUNNING OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RELAY THROUGH CAPITOL GROUNDS.

On May 19, 1995, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate may jointly designate, the 1995 Special Olympics Torch Relay may be run through the Capitol Grounds, as part of the journey of the Special Olympics torch to the District of Columbia Special Olympics summer games at Gallaudet University in the District of Columbia.

SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITY OF CAPITOL POLICE BOARD.

The Capitol Police Board shall take such action as may be necessary to carry out section 1.

SEC. 3. CONDITIONS RELATING TO PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS.

The Architect of the Capitol may prescribe conditions for physical preparations for the event authorized by section 1.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks, and include therein extraneous material, on House Concurrent Resolution 64.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 743

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask unanimous consent to remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 743, the Teamwork for Employees and Management Act.

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

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the vote when rollcall No. 304 and rollcall No. 306 were taken last week. I would have voted in the affirmative in both matters if I had been present.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks, and include extraneous matter on H.R. 1361.

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

There was no objection.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 139 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1361.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1361) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes, with Mr. DICKEY in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. COBLE] and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] will each be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. COBLE].

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, many Americans, and for that matter many Members of this body, do not really know the Coast Guard. I want to introduce the Coast Guard that I know to those uninformed about America's oldest continuous seagoing service.

The Coast Guard is the butt of many jokes, some submitted good-naturedly, some submitted maliciously. Many refer to the Coast Guard as the shallow water Navy, hooligan Navy, as shallow-water sailors or hooligan sailors.

Even Hollywood gets into the act. A recently released movie depicted a military force about to depart on a combat mission. The commander of the force said to his group, "Be careful, men." One of his troops replied, "If I wanted to be careful, I would have joined the Coast Guard."

This comment, of course, drew wild laughter from the moviegoers and was yet another example of a joke at the expense of the Coast Guard. Permit me to identify those who do not consider the Coast Guard a joke.

The wife whose husband was adrift in a treacherous sea was rescued by the Coast Guard. The husband whose wife was stranded at sea in a disabled vessel rescued by the Coast Guard. Property owners whose property could have been destroyed by oil spills, property protected and saved by the Coast Guard. Seamen who rely upon accurately marked aids to navigation maintained by the Coast Guard. The mama and daddy whose child is hauled from the grasp of an angry sea by a Coast Guard helicopter crew.

In the poem, Mr. Chairman, entitled "The Coast Guard Cutter," the poet vividly and emotionally portrays these lifesavers as legitimate heroes: