

breach the security of the United States Capitol by even a few more feet, more would surely have died. Both officers have died in the service of their country, keeping the Capitol secure, so that Members, their staff, and the hundreds of thousands of Americans visiting the "People's House" might live.

I do not want fear or unreason to take hold amidst cries to turn our Capitol into a fortress. There is talk of beefing up security in the aftermath—a review that would have taken place after any violent event in and around the Capitol. I assure you this will not pass us by, but will grow into something positive in the way of added security.

But we must carry on and let nothing stand in the way of the public's access to their Capitol or their representatives. To do otherwise would be to somehow diminish the supreme sacrifice made by these two brave officers. Instead, let us grieve along with the families, and offer them our strength and the comfort of our prayers to see them through the days ahead, by remembering the bravery of the men they lost—men who were husbands, fathers, grandfathers, sons, uncles, friends and above all, protectors of the public trust.

There is a Poem—one that is very fitting—about fallen heroes, entitled: "A Part of America Died Today," and its author is unknown to me. But I reprint it here in tribute to Officer J.J. Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson:

Somebody killed a policeman today, and a part of America died.

A piece of our country he swore to protect will be buried with him at his side.

The suspect who shot him will stand up in court,

with counsel demanding his rights.

While a widowed mother must comfort her kids

and spend alone many long nights.

The beat that he walked was a battlefield, too.

Just as if he had gone off to war.

The flag of our nation does fly at half-mast.

To his name, they will add a gold star.

Yes, somebody killed a policeman today.

A cop put his life on the line.

Now his ghost walks a beat on a dark city street,

and he stands at each new rookie's side.

He answered the call and gave us his all, and a part of America died.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, my staff, and the people of the 3rd District of West Virginia, I extend our deep sympathy, our prayers, and our thanks to the families of these two fallen heroes, Officer J.J. Chestnut, and Special Agent John Gibson, placing them in the comforting arms of God, asking His blessings upon them.

IN TRIBUTE

(Mrs. MORELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two heroes, Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson of the U.S. Capitol Police, who sacrificed their lives not only for those of us in Congress and for the staff and for the tourists, but for all of the American people.

J.J. Chestnut guarded the main entrance. John Gibson was assigned to

Majority Whip TOM DELAY. Both were veterans of the force, took their responsibilities seriously, so much so that in saving the lives of others, they lost their own.

We take this safety for granted. Who could ever imagine a shooting in the Nation's Capitol, the shrine of liberty and justice to all? Who could ever imagine the death of two officers because of that shooting?

We shall miss these men who guided us, who cheered us, who cared for us, who asked us about our families and we inquired about theirs, who shared their interests, always there, alert and responsive. We will miss them, yes, but they leave behind them their wives without husbands, their children without fathers, the Capitol Police without two colleagues.

We offer our condolences to Officer Chestnut's widow Wen Ling and his five children, Joseph, Janece, Janet, Karen and William; and to Detective Gibson's widow Evelyn and his three children, Kristen, John and Daniel. Those of us who are Americans, who are part of the Capitol Hill family, are in mourning over the senseless loss of these two fine men, all across Washington and across the Nation.

I want to close with a quote from Thornton Wilder who said, "There is the land of the living and the land of the dead, and the bridge is love, the only survival and the only meaning." This is the love that they leave behind and this is the love we give to them and to their families.

IN TRIBUTE

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

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, my staff and the people of Delaware, I want to extend my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut. I also want Congressman DELAY and his staff as well as the visitors to the Capitol who witnessed this tragedy to know that they are in our thoughts today.

Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut were heroes who gave their lives protecting the United States Capitol and those who work here and visit this great building. Words are not able to convey the thanks and respect we owe these two men.

I also want to pay tribute to the other Members of the Capitol Hill Police who responded to this terrible tragedy. They too are heroes. Fortunately, they did not have to pay the price that Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson did, but their commitment to their duty and the safety of others was clearly demonstrated on that fateful day.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the members of the Capitol Hill Police Force and our law enforcement officers across the Nation for the service they provide to the people of the United

States. Unfortunately, I have attended services like this one today for fallen officers in Delaware. They are never easy but they do remind us of the absolute dedication that every law enforcement officer brings to the job and the very real risk they take every day.

Mr. Speaker, our thanks and prayers go to Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson. We will always remember them. In their memory, we also thank all the men and women in law enforcement who share the commitment that these two heroes exemplified. Finally, I want to say to the families of John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut, thank you for giving us these two men. We are eternally grateful, and you will remain in our thoughts and prayers.

□ 1315

PROFOUND SYMPATHIES FROM NEW JERSEY'S 11TH DISTRICT

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, in this hallowed Chamber we are often separated by differences in policy and politics, but today we stand together as a family, bound in honor of two men who will always be remembered in this Chamber and in this Nation as heroes.

While the horror of Friday's events will be blurred sadly by still other tragedies and the passage of time, the bravery and devotion to duty of Capitol Hill Police Officers John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut will become as lasting as the very democracy contained within these walls. We will not forget them.

This Capitol, the People's House, is honored by the service of each of our Capitol Police Officers, and to all of them today I offer praise and gratitude. By these two fallen heroes the People's House is venerated more so than the presence of any one of us here who have meant liberty, for Officers Gibson and Chestnut surrendered theirs in protection of ours.

To the Gibson and Chestnut families, on behalf of New Jersey's 11th Congressional District, my deepest, most profound sympathies go to them. They should know we share their grief and we also share their tremendous pride of these two men who have given their lives in the preservation of the sanctity of our Nation's Capitol.

PRAYERS FROM THE PEOPLE OF BROOKLYN AND STATEN ISLAND

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

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I come here today with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to offer my condolences and prayers to the families of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson. Just on the way over here I was talking to some retired Capitol Hill Police, one of whom trained Detective Gibson. And