

Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson were heroes. They chose to place themselves in harm's way every day they came to work. In that awful moment last Friday, they did not flinch from making the ultimate sacrifice to protect coworkers, friends, and even complete strangers.

They were more than just officers, though. They were husbands, fathers, and a grandfather. We grieve with their families, mourning their loss and ours. Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson were part of that thin blue line that runs through every community in America.

As we remember their heroism this week, let us not forget that their colleagues here at the Capitol and in law enforcement agencies throughout the Nation still stand ready to protect and search. Let us appreciate the contributions they make and the risks that they take each day when they put on that uniform.

As Ronald Reagan said, those who say we don't have heroes anymore, well, they just don't know where to look. We lost two of those heroes on Friday.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE SLAIN OFFICERS WHO DEFENDED THE U.S. CAPITOL

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

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the slain officers who valiantly have defended the people's House last Friday, Special Agent John Gibson and Special Agent Jacob Chestnut.

Shakespeare wrote, "All the world is a stage, and all the men and women, merely players. Each has his entrance and his exit. One man in his time may play many parts."

So it was with Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson. They, too, played many roles. They were sons, husbands, fathers, friends, coworkers. They were great men, great not because of the titles they carried, not because of the uniforms they wore. They were great not because of where they worked, nor because of who they worked with.

□ 1415

No, they were great because, measured by the true standard of greatness set by Jesus, that is, "he who is great among you shall be your servant and he who is greatest shall be servant unto all," they measured up.

They served us all. They stood by the door to protect us and thousands who visit this Capitol each day. Both literally and figuratively, they served us and America by giving their last full measure of devotion and to protect us and the House of Democracy.

Too often, those in exalted places of power overlook the nameless persons who serve and wait. Whether those who sweep the floors, hold the doors, service or drive the elevators, serve the food, cut the grass, or clean the toilets,

they are too often overlooked. But they, too, are great, because they also serve.

We are grateful to God and to the families of Officers Gibson and Chestnut for allowing us in America to benefit from their service.

Yes, all the world is a stage and all the men and women merely players. Each has its entrance and his exit and these two in their time played many parts. For their service and their friendship, we are grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a sad heart to extend my condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of officers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson. I do this on behalf of my wife, Simone, and our family, my staff, and the constituents of the Sixth Congressional District of New York.

I have only been a Member of the Capitol community for about 5 months, and it has been a learning experience for me and my staff, as most us are new to Washington. One of the things that we have learned is that there is a strong sense of community here. Members and staff view each other as colleagues, and we view our staffs as part of our families.

The Capitol Police, in my opinion, are indeed an extension of that spirit of professional respect, friendship, and family. They protect Members, they protect our staffs, and they protect the many visitors that visit the Capitol every day. They risk their lives for us and for America. But we must ask ourselves, what is it that they are protecting?

I believe, as I am sure all Americans believe, that they are defending the crucible of freedom. It is the crucible of freedom that is on display every day in this building. The fact that Officers Chestnut and Gibson gave their lives defending this place will serve as a reminder to me what the words "duty" and "service" really mean. The senseless act of this past Friday truly define the words "defending the Constitution."

Yes, I still learn every day that I am here, as I had learned before I arrived here, that we cannot place a value on human life. But a person who is willing to give their life, make the ultimate sacrifice so that someone else might continue to live, is one who really understands life and its value.

Yes, as others have said, freedom is not free. And it is with a tremendous sacrifice that we are free in this country, a freedom that we all to often take for granted.

But I just pray that we all understand what sacrifice means after this tragedy. I again send my prayers to the families of these heroes. I know, and I want them to know, that they are not alone. This House, this Congress, and indeed America's prayers are supporting them.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4328, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-651) on the resolution (H. Res. 510) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4328) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 629, TEXAS LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL COMPACT CONSENT ACT

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-652) on the resolution (H. Res. 511) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 629) to grant the consent of the Congress to the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### STAFF TRIBUTES TO DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I probably will not take the entire 5 minutes, for those who are waiting to speak. I just wanted to add to last night, when I read into the RECORD some of my staff's memories of Detective John Gibson. Today I had a few more that my staff offers, and I wanted to read them into the RECORD as well.

From Jim Morrell,

Working in the front office at the Whip Office for a year and a half, I had the opportunity to come to know John; the opportunity to know what an outstanding human being he truly was. When the nights got late with Congressman DeLay up in leadership meetings or on the House Floor, there would often be just a few of us left in the office. I can remember staying up there until 11:00 or 12:00 at night with John watching TV or talking about the latest events in the sports world. With John being a die-hard Red Sox fan and me being a die-hard Cubs fan, we often commiserated on the respective futility of our favorite baseball teams.

I walked into the Whip's office last Friday, minutes before the tragic events unfolded. Although I came in the front door, I turned my head towards the back hallway before continuing on. There sat John at the back desk dutifully guarding his post.

For the rest of my life, that image of John will stay with me. The image of a guardian, a defender, a protector. I can imagine John, even as shots were being fired, thinking, "There is no way you are going to harm the people in this office."

Well, no one in our office was harmed, thanks to John. The hardest part of this tragedy is that I will never have the opportunity to thank John personally. In every sense of the word, he was a part of our office, a part of our family, and he will be sorely missed. God was very gracious to allow me to know John Gibson. I will always remember his life and will always remember his sacrifice.

From Shannon Graves, she says,

John was my father, my uncle, my brother, my protective shield. For the year and a half that I sat in a desk right in front of him, I saw John from sunup to sundown. Gibson, as I would always call him, was always there with a cheery "good morning" and a smile throughout the day.

He took on the role of a father to a very young female in the office. He was there to give you congratulations, give you that stern lecture that was needed, and if someone was ever bothering you he was there to make it go away.

As we sat together, it became the competition of dueling TVs, always helping him with the Internet, e-mail, and loading the latest computer games for him, Doug, and Bob to play.

I remember the day he was on detail for John Travolta. It was about 6:30 at night. He came running into the office asking me to grab any film that I might have. He would give no details, except to grab the film and follow him. I ran with him, and the next thing I know, I am handing the film over to John Travolta's photographer. It seems that she ran out of film and Travolta was going into a meeting with the Speaker. I spent the next hour up on the balcony and then was ushered over to have my picture taken.

John was always watching out for everyone. He wanted to make sure that everyone benefited. He escorted Stephanie and myself to see Mother Theresa when she was leaving the Capitol. He was always right there for you. Now my Hill father is gone.

From Dani DeLay, my own daughter, who is now Dani Farrell,

John always treated me like he was another father. Whenever I was in Washington, he always was looking out for me and watching me like a hawk.

I liked to tease him and tell him I feel sorry for his own daughter. I was sure that, at age 17, he still had not let her go out on a date.

I feel so safe knowing that now he will always be watching over me wherever I am.

The last conversation John and I had, he told me how much he and my family meant to him and how much he loved us. John, I love you, too.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to just thank all the Members for all the wonderful words they have said on this floor on behalf of J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DELAY. I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority whip, yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to make two points. One is this House has come together in an extraordinary way in the last 24 hours. Last night's meeting, a joint caucus and conference meeting between the Democrats and the Republicans, was this institution at its finest.

I think in the memory of these two outstanding men, we should all commit ourselves to love each other more, to be more civil, to hold this institution up in the way that they deserve. In memory of them, that we would, as a people, find some good in this and come together in an extraordinary and historic way.

Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to come today to this floor and recognize a great "Tennessee Volunteer," Senator BILL FRIST, whose second nature was to help; to put himself in an awkward position as a physician, though to always put that patient first, regardless of who that patients is.

A great Tennessean of whom we are all very proud, Senator FRIST came where he was needed most and gave of himself in an extraordinary way.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) and the Speaker and the minority leader for this House coming together for these two remarkable men.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER JACOB J.  
CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE  
JOHN M. GIBSON WHO SAC-  
RIFICED THEIR LIVES IN THE  
LINE OF DUTY

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues before me, I rise to extend my heartfelt sympathies and deepest condolences to the families of Officers Jacob Chestnut and Detective John Gibson. We pay this special congressional tribute today in honor of these extraordinary and courageous Americans who sacrificed their lives so that the Members of this institution and the public could be protected from harm and from danger.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes we take it for granted that our Capitol Hill officers perform their duties day and night, faithfully, steadfastly, without complaint and with quiet dedication. At all times, they are willing to assist us and assist our constituents, going out of their way to be helpful and courteous. They serve this institution with dignity, with selflessness and, Mr. Speaker, as this tragedy as shown us, they serve this institution with great courage.

My colleagues in the House, for all I know, it could have been any one of us walking down that Capitol hallway last Friday afternoon, any one of us or any one of the thousands of more than 18,000 staff members and visitors who enter that hallway of the Capitol building every day. It could have been any one of us. The violence was that random.

Mr. Speaker, several members of Congress could have been hurt or killed last Friday. These brave officers, John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut, took the bullets instead. They took the bullets

that recklessly endangered everyone in that hallway, including visitors who wanted very much to see America's greatest monument, a building that symbolizes freedom and democracy throughout the world.

In this moment when there was only time to act, we saw the true nature of both of these men. We saw their courage and saw their deeply selfless impulse to protect life and to protect the sacred space which is at the very heart of this democracy, the House of Representatives of the American people.

So while this tragedy has shocked all of us, Mr. Speaker, I would join my colleagues who have urged that it not result in undue restrictions of public access; restrictions that would change the very essence and character of the People's House.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all the men and women in uniform, along with these two gentlemen, who perform their duties day and night to protect us and to protect all Americans who grace the people's House with their presence to witness the world's greatest democracy. We know that all of them are sworn to protect this institution, as were Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson.

Mr. Speaker, words simply cannot express our great sorrow and the depth of gratitude. Mr. Speaker, in our Samoan tradition we say—(The gentleman from American Samoa spoke in Samoan)—"May your voyage be one of greatness and with great success."

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN).

(Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my condolences, and that of my constituents in the U.S. Virgin Islands, to the family of our slain officers, as well as our respect, honor, and gratitude to these officers for their years of exemplary service and their supreme sacrifice.

We are all the beneficiaries of their service and bravery and that of their fellow officers who greet us daily, look after our welfare, protect us and our families and our constituents.

On a personal level, they help me find my way between meetings; they greet me as I arrive and leave. When necessary, they have seen to it that I have gotten home safely and have been helpful above and beyond the call of duty in many ways.

Officers Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson have served us and their country at the highest level of service. May the sorrow of their families be eased by the fact that so many share the burden of their loss.

□ 1430

May God bless them and us, and may our beloved officers rest in peace.