

face we may not fully understand its significance, but it is so important.

Yesterday, hundreds of families journeyed to Washington, D.C. to celebrate the importance of family and to examine the vital role that families play in maintaining stable and prosperous communities. In years past, we have had the Million Man March, the Million Moms March, but this time our children were encouraged to participate. Many thousands of children did attend the march, and some even addressed the crowds about issues that were of particular concern to them.

The Nation took special note of our children yesterday in a positive and inspirational way. We adults were compelled to contemplate the world we have made for them, full of good times and bad, hope and despair, life and death.

Yesterday in the Middle East, Madam Speaker, during the ongoing violence involving the Palestinians and the Israelis, a child was left brain dead from a gunshot wound to the head. The loss of a child, no matter what the circumstances and no matter where, causes tremendous personal grief for the family and friends. It causes some of us to stop and reflect on the loss, and sometimes consider, could or should we have done something to prevent it. It also makes us think about all the unmet and unfulfilled dreams of those children and their families.

It is devastating to me when young lives are cut short. Those affected by such a tragedy often need assistance and support to get through the experience. I am glad to know that help is available. The Compassionate Friends, Incorporated, also known as TCF, is a group whose mission is to assist families in the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child.

TCF conceived and nurtured the worldwide candlelighting. In its fourth year, the candlelighting is held in the second Sunday in December. Participants around the globe light candles for 1 hour to honor children who have died. The candles are lit at 7 p.m. local time starting in New Zealand. As candles burn down in each time zone, they are then lit in the next. This creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as the observance continues around the world.

In the United States, approximately 228,000 children and young adults die every year. Nineteen percent of the adult population has experienced the death of a child, and 22 percent the death of a sibling. Taking into account people who have lost a child and sibling, 36 percent of the adult population has suffered the death of a child, a sibling, or both.

Madam Speaker, just yesterday in my district I spoke at the West Baltimore Middle School to 37 eighth graders. I asked them a very simple question, but the answer was very telling. I asked them how many of them had had a loved one, a friend, a young person to die by gun violence. Out of those 37 children living in the inner city of Bal-

timore, 35 raised their hands. That is here in America. That happens in our cities and even in our rural areas. We certainly grieve for those families.

House Concurrent Resolution 415 expresses, therefore, the sense of Congress that a National Children's Memorial Day should be established to remember the infants, children, teenagers, and young adults in the United States who have died.

As we remember America's children, let us also remember those who grieve for them. Whether it be from gun violence, an airplane or car crash, a miscarriage, or a terminal illness, the loss of a child is something no parent, no parent, should have to experience, but many do. Children's Memorial Day is a time when we as individuals and as a nation can show our compassion to those who have suffered such a loss.

Madam Speaker, I have often said that our children are the living messages we send to a future we will never see. It is sad to think that so often our children die before their parents, so we have no message to send to the future. Hopefully, on this Memorial Day, when we think about our children who have died, we will also think about ways that we can prevent them from dying so that they can experience this wonderful journey called life.

Many organizations and support groups, such as the Compassionate Friends, exist to help bereaved parents deal with their grief. Yet, only 46 percent of parents are aware of them. Let us join TCF in observing December 10 as Children's Memorial Day, and let it serve as an opportunity for grief support organizations and churches to increase awareness of their services and programs.

Madam Speaker, I urge our Members to vote in favor of this very important and wonderful legislation that has been sponsored by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I want to also commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) for introducing this important bill, and for his efforts to bring it to the floor. I would like to thank the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the ranking member, for cosponsoring this bill, and for his continued work on this subject.

Again, I would like to thank the full committee chairman, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH), and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), for their support.

If passed, Madam Speaker, this will be the third consecutive year we will have designated the second Sunday in December as Children's Memorial Day. I urge Members to lend their support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I would urge that all Members support this legislation. I would thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) for his leadership with regard to Children's issues.

As he talked about his daughters, I could not help but think about the little prayer, Madam Speaker, that we say so often with our children: "Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take."

Anyone who has knelt over a child and said that prayer, they cannot help but feel tingles and sometimes a tear at just the thought of that child not rising, just the thought of that child not being able to live out the full potential that God has given to them.

Madam Speaker, I urge our membership to support this very important resolution, but in supporting this, I hope that when December 10 comes that we will also, as a Congress and as a body and as a country and as a world, do everything in our power to make sure that every one of our children, no matter where they are, no matter who they are, are able to rise up to be all that they can be, and be the best that they can be.

1530

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 415.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. OSE. Madam 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 motion will be postponed.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER CONFIDENTIALITY ACT OF 1999

Mr. OSE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3218) to amend title 31, United States Code, to prohibit the appearance of Social Security account numbers on or through unopened mailings of checks or other drafts issued on public money in the Treasury.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3218

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Social Security Number Confidentiality Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. OPEN DISCLOSURE OF SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS ON THE FACE OF GOVERNMENT CHECK MAILINGS PROHIBITED.

Section 3327 of title 31 of the United States Code (relating to general authority to issue checks and other drafts) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a)" before "The Secretary"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following subsection:

"(b) The Secretary of the Treasury shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure that Social Security account numbers (including derivatives of such numbers) are not visible on or through unopened mailings of checks or other drafts described in subsection (a) of this section."

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TRANSITIONAL RULE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to all mailings of checks or other drafts issued on or after the date which is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) PHASE-IN OF AMENDMENTS.—Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall commence procedures to gradually implement the amendments made by this Act in advance of the effective date described in subsection (a). Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for each of the next two years, the Secretary shall transmit to each House of the Congress a report describing the manner and extent to which the requirements of the preceding sentence have been carried out.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

Mr. OSE. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise as the author of H.R. 3218, the Social Security Number Confidentiality Act of 1999.

First, though, I would like to thank the leadership for bringing the problem of personal privacy into the national arena, especially the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security of the Committee on Ways and Means, who presently has a more comprehensive bill before the House, for his long-time advocacy of personal information privacy.

H.R. 3218 is only a small step toward protecting all Americans from identity theft, and I look forward to working with the gentleman from Florida (Chairman SHAW) next year.

H.R. 3218 stops the Federal Government from making identity theft any easier for con artists. How? My bill prohibits the appearance of Social Security account numbers on or through unopened mailings of checks or other drafts issued by the Treasury Department.

This problem was brought to my attention by senior citizens in my district who revealed that their Social Security numbers appeared in the windowed part of their Social Security

checks, making them easy targets to scam artists. Just remember the credit card scam that victimized military officers whose names, addresses, and Social Security numbers were printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Congress has since halted this practice. Is it not time that we take steps to ensure the safety and privacy for our senior citizens?

Just last month, the Treasury Department confirmed that Social Security numbers would no longer be visible through the windows of benefits checks, such as Social Security checks.

However, the need for this legislation still exists. Any future administration could, for the sake of time or efficiency, return to the practice of using Social Security numbers for positive identification. The banking industry's concern over efficiency has been addressed in my bill by leaving Social Security numbers on the benefit checks, just not in a place where it can be seen in a windowed envelope.

H.R. 3218 ensures that seniors are never again put at risk of having their Social Security numbers displayed in plain view where they are available for criminals and fraud. It will protect the privacy and confidentiality of our Social Security numbers.

Again, I would like to thank the leadership and the gentleman from Florida (Chairman SHAW) for bringing this bill to the floor for consideration.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan legislation, H.R. 3218, the Social Security Number Confidentiality Act, which amends the law to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make necessary changes to ensure that Social Security numbers are not visible through the unopened mailings of government checks or other drafts.

I appreciate the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) for bringing this legislation forward, and I also commend the Department of the Treasury which also noted that this change needed to be made.

In fact, in August of this year, the Treasury Department announced that Social Security numbers would no longer be visible through the envelope window of checks mailed to Social Security recipients.

This past September, the Treasury Department began using the check numbers rather than the Social Security numbers to identify and to retrieve payments that are ineligible for delivery. This was a welcome and a necessary change.

I commend the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the Department of the Treasury both for noting that this important change needed to be made on the mailings of our Nation's Social Security checks.

It is interesting to note that there are a number of House Members who also have privacy bills that are pending who are anxious to have this House act

on their legislation. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KLECZKA) has H.R. 1450; the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) has H.R. 4857; the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) has H.R. 4311; the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) has H.R. 4611. All of these bills are worthy of consideration by this Congress.

Unfortunately, time seems to be running out on these important measures that are designed, as the bill of the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) is designed, to protect the privacy of American citizens.

Again, clearly, our citizens do not deserve to have their Social Security numbers displayed to the public on the envelopes in which they receive their Social Security checks.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join in adopting this resolution.

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

Mr. OSE. Madam Speaker, I also urge adoption of this bill. Having no other requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3218.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OSE. Madam 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 motion will be postponed.

GEORGE ATLEE GOODLING POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. OSE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5210) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 South George Street in York, Pennsylvania, as the "George Atlee Goodling Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5210

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

SECTION 1. GEORGE ATLEE GOODLING POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 South George Street in York, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the "George Atlee Goodling Post Office Building".

(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 George Atlee Goodling Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) each will control 20 minutes.