minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce the guest chaplain, Tony Incashola, Director of the Salish-Pend d'Orielle Culture Committee, of the Flathead Indian Reservation.

The Flathead Indian Reservation is home to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe, consisting of the Salish, Pend d'Orielle, and Kootenai peoples.

Today, Tony is a highly respected tribal and community leader. For over 25 years, Tony, a fluent Salish language speaker, has served on the Culture Committee.

As young men, both Tony and his brother, Baptiste, left home to serve their country in Vietnam. Tony accompanied his brother's body home after he was killed in action.

Tony and his wife, Denise, have four children and have raised several foster children.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I thank the Tribal Chairman Fred Matt for requesting that Tony be today's guest chaplain.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER MEMBER GERALD SOLOMON

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I think most of my colleagues now are aware of the very sad news of the passing of our former colleague, Gerald Solomon, last Friday.

Jerry Solomon was a wonderful individual. He was a beloved figure both in this House and in his district in New York and across the country. He was an inspiration to so many of us. I had the privilege of succeeding him as chairman of the House Committee on Rules, and he provided me with a lot of direction, a lot of encouragement, and he often gave me lots of orders, too, some of which I followed.

He was an individual who was so proud of the United States of America. Today, people are regularly wearing American flags on their lapel. Jerry Solomon, when I first met him in 1978, wore a flag on his lapel and always did because he was a dedicated Marine. He was an individual who obviously loved his family, and he loved this institution and the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to, on behalf of all of our colleagues, extend condolences to his wonderful wife, Freda, and the Solomon family, and to say that we truly miss a very, very dear friend, and we are all proud of the wonderful service that he provided to the United States of America.

STATE DEPARTMENT SHOULD GET ON MESSAGE WITH WHITE HOUSE

(Mr. NADLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, this country is united in supporting the determination of President Bush to fight the terrorists across the world, to fight all those terrorist groups, as he said, with global reach. Apparently, however, the State Department has not gotten the message.

What are we to make of the fact that the State Department incessantly criticizes Israel for attacking terrorists who have attacked civilians in Israel in exactly the way the United States is trying to apprehend and kill Osama bin Laden and his followers; and the State Department spokesman says, ah, it is different, because there is an agreement with Israel to negotiate with the Palestinians. When the Palestinians engage in terror and break their agreement not to use violence, apparently our position is that Israel should remain defenseless and do nothing to reply; either do nothing or face the condemnation of our State Department.

The State Department should get on message with the President and the rest of the United States that is opposed to terror and thinks that people who are attacked by terrorists have the right to self-defense.

MEDAL OF VALOR FOR AMERICA'S HEROES ACT

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today, we will consider House Concurrent Resolution 243, the Medal of Valor for America's Heroes Act.

Our Nation continues to mourn the many, many innocent citizens that were lost in the tragic events of September 11 and terrorist events since then. However, our Nation also celebrates the courage and dedication of the firefighters, police officers and medical personnel who worked around the clock to find survivors amidst the rubble in New York and Washington. These brave men and women were first on the scene and risked their lives to help their fellow Americans, and many of these brave souls made the ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, it is only proper that the United States recognize these heroes and award them the Medal of Valor for their service. I encourage all my colleagues to support this resolution and for America never to forget our fallen heroes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

EXTENDING ELIGIBILITY FOR REFUGEE STATUS OF UNMARRIED SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF CERTAIN VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1840) to extend eligibility for refugee status of unmarried sons and daughters of certain Vietnamese refugees, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1840

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

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY FOR REFUGEE STATUS.

(a) ELIGIBILITY FOR IN-COUNTRY REFUGEE PROCESSING IN VIETNAM.—For purposes of eligibility for in-country refugee processing for nationals of Vietnam during fiscal years 2002 and 2003, an alien described in subsection (b) shall be considered to be a refugee of special humanitarian concern to the United States (within the meaning of section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157)) and shall be admitted to the United States for resettlement if the alien would be admissible as an immigrant under the Immigration and Nationality Act (except as provided in section 207(c)(3) of that Act).

(b) ALIENS COVERED.—An alien described in this subsection is an alien who—

(1) is the son or daughter of a qualified national;

(2) is 21 years of age or older; and

(3) was unmarried as of the date of acceptance of the alien's parent for resettlement under the Orderly Departure Program or through the United States Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City.

(c) QUALIFIED NATIONAL.—The term ''qualified national'' in subsection (b)(1) means a national of Vietnam who—

(1)(A) was formerly interned in a re-education camp in Vietnam by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; or

(B) is the widow or widower of an individual described in subparagraph (A);

(2)(A) qualified for refugee processing under the Orderly Departure Program re-education subprogram; and

(B) is or was accepted under the Orderly Departure Program or through the United States Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City—

(i) for resettlement as a refugee; or

(ii) for admission to the United States as an immediate relative immigrant; and

(3)(A) is presently maintaining a residence in the United States or whose surviving spouse is presently maintaining such a residence; or

(B) was approved for refugee resettlement or immigrant visa processing and is awaiting departure formalities from Vietnam or whose surviving spouse is awaiting such departure formalities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days

within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1840, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1840 extends eligibility for refugee status of unmarried sons and daughters of certain Vietnamese refugees. It stems from the Orderly Departure Program which was established in 1979 to give eligible nationals of Vietnam an alternative method of emigrating to a foreign country, rather than undertake illegal hazardous departures by boat or land.

In 1989, the INS began adjudicating applications for refugee status in Vietnam for certain Vietnamese nationals who had been in reeducation camps for at least 3 years and widows of Vietnamese nationals who died as a result of confinement in the reeducation camps. The INS included unmarried sons and daughters 21 years and older based on case eligibility guidelines set up by the State Department 10 years earlier. However, this contradicted immigration regulations. INS had been treating those unmarried sons and daughters as derivative refugees, but the Immigration regulations defined derivative refugees as spouses and unmarried children under 21 years of age.

In April of 1995, the INS, with concurrence of the State Department, stopped accepting sons and daughters 21 years of age or older. In response to this modification, the McCain amendment was enacted to reestablish refugee eligibility to unmarried adult sons and daughters of the qualifying Vietnamese nationals. The legislation was retroactive to April 1, 1995, the date on which the modification had taken effect. It was extended in 1998.

The INS has denied derivative refugee status to those unmarried sons and daughters who failed to prove their family relationship with the principal applicant. The INS mistakenly denied some for no proof of family relationship when the applicant could not show he or she continuously resided with the parent. After determining that it was incorrectly denying some derivatives based on co-residency, the INS identified the entire caseload of improperly adjudicated derivative family member cases. The agency had until September 30, 2001 to correct the cases adjudicated on or after April 1, 1995, where the original denial was based solely on the issue of co-residency with the principal applicant.

The INS needs additional time to adjudicate pending cases under the McCain amendment. As such, H.R. 1840 extends the time to adjudicate these cases by 2 years. The intent of H.R. 1840 is to extend the same eligibility criteria applied to cases currently being processed under the McCain amendment to individuals whose parent's case was processed prior to April 1, 1995. Accordingly, the act removes the date of April 1, 1995, imposed by the McCain amendment.

In addition to failure to prove co-residency, the INS has denied some cases because the applicants were unable to prove their family relationship to a principal applicant. Due to new identification methods, such as DNA, H.R. 1840 permits the INS to reconsider cases that were previously denied for failure of proof rather than just those cases that were denied based on the issue of cohabitation with the principal alien.

Finally, some sons and daughters have been denied derivative refugee status because their principal applicant parent has died, although the surviving parent resides in the United States or is awaiting departure formalities from Vietnam. Accordingly, H.R. 1840 expands eligibility to include these adult unmarried sons and daughters.

The bill has the support of its author, the State Department, the Justice Department, the INS, and it passed the Committee on the Judiciary unanimously. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserves the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. It is a reasonable bill that is based on a bipartisan agreement between members of the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on the Judiciary. The bill passed the Committee on the Judiciary by a voice vote.

Prior to April 1, 1995, refugees accepted for resettlement into the United States were allowed to bring their sons and daughters, even those above the age of 21, so long as they had never married and were members of the refugee parent's household. On April 1, 1995, the INS changed its interpretation of the then existing law to exclude children who were over 21, even if they were unmarried and living with their parents.

□ 1415

Mr. Speaker, in the case of South Vietnamese combat veterans and others who had suffered long terms in reeducation camps because of their wartime associations with the United States, this imposed a particularly harsh burden on the refugees and their children. These children had already been without their fathers throughout the time they were in reeducation camps, in some cases for 10 or 15 years.

The new rule was particularly harsh on young women. In Vietnamese society, a 21- or 22-year-old unmarried woman either lives with her parents or she is regarded as vulnerable and unprotected.

Recognizing these realities, Congress has three times adopted the McCain amendment, which changes the INS interpretation of the law, so that refugees who are survivors of reeducation camps can once again be accompanied by their unmarried young sons and daughters.

Due to drafting mistake, the provision excluded sons and daughters who were mistakenly rejected before April 1, 1995. This bill will fix this problem once and for all, simply by enacting the very same rules for pre-April 1995 cases that already apply by law to cases after April 1, 1995. It is simple legislation, and it cures an injustice. It harms nobody, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

(Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his courtesy and consideration in bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H.R. 1840, a bill which will extend eligibility for refugee status of unmarried sons and daughters of certain Vietnamese refugees.

The Communist government of Vietnam, by its actions in imprisoning Catholic priests, Buddhist monks, and ordinary citizens whose only crime is to speak out for freedom and democracy is saying loudly and clearly and consistently to the United States, we want American investment dollars and we are willing to learn from the American economic system, but American values of religious and political freedom are not welcomed.

We need to do more to respond to this message of oppression with our own message of freedom. Human rights needs to be central to our foreign policy toward Vietnam. One small step is to save as many as possible of the people who are still being persecuted by the Communist authorities because of their wartime associations with the United States, or simply because they share our values.

Mr. Speaker, until 1995, those refugees who were eligible to resettle in the United States under the HO component of the Orderly Departure Program, which is limited to persons who served 3 or more years in reeducation camps after the Communist takeover of Vietnam in 1975, were allowed to bring their children with them. This policy included unmarried children who had reached the age of 21 during the period of the refugee's incarceration or during the long wait to receive an exit visa from the Communist authorities.

I introduced this resolution several months ago to address a specific immigration concern. Until April 1, 1995, former Vietnamese prisoners of war who were accepted for resettlement by

the United States as refugees could bring their sons and daughters, even those above the age of 21, so long as they had never married and were members of the refugee parent's household. On April 1, 1995, INS changed its interpretation of the then-existing law to exclude children who were over 21, even if they were unmarried and living with their parents. This abrupt decision reversed our humanitarian pro-family policy. This change in policy forced a brutal choice on ex-political prisoners: either decline the opportunity to find freedom in the United States, or abandon their children in a country that has persecuted them.

In 1996 Congress adopted the McCain amendment to make clear that unmarried adult sons and daughters of reeducation camp internees are refugees of special humanitarian concern under U.S. law. Unfortunately, difficulties in interpretation and implementation of this provision have left hundreds of refugee families still separated.

For South Vietnamese combat veterans and others who had suffered long terms in reeducation camps because of their wartime associations with us, this imposed a particularly harsh burden on both them and their children. These children had already been without their fathers when they were in reeducation camps, in some cases for 10 or 15 years. Then the refugees were given a choice between living forever under a Communist dictatorship or leaving their children behind when they immigrated to the United States. These children are marked as members of a counterrevolutionary family and denied educational and employment opportunities by the Government of Vietnam. They would certainly go on suffering in Vietnam because of their families' participation in the war.

Additionally, the new INS rule was particularly harsh to young women. In Vietnamese society, a 21- or 22-year-old girl either lives with her parents or is regarded as vulnerable and unprotected.

Recognizing these realities, Congress on three occasions adopted the McCain amendment which changed the INS interpretation of the law so that refugees who are survivors of reeducation camps can once again be accompanied by their unmarried sons and daughters.

The latest extension expired on September 30. My bill will extend the McCain amendment for 2 years and fix a drafting problem in the language. This bill will allow over-21 unmarried sons and daughters and widows of qualified reeducation detainees to be considered for resettlement as refugees to the United States, regardless of the date of acceptance.

H.R. 1840 is a fair and equitable bill that will provide family reunification and allow us to keep our promise to the people who fought alongside U.S. troops during the Vietnam War. Their courage and valor must never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) for their leadership, and their respective staffs. I urge my colleagues to give this legislation their support.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), and I particularly want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) for introducing this legislation.

This would appear to be a minor, technical correction; but it makes a major change in the lives of a great many American families. I use the term ''American families'' deliberately. I challenge Members to find any group of immigrants any more committed to the United States and its values than Vietnamese refugees. The Vietnamese American families are extremely patriotic. They put many of us to shame.

The fact is that their sons and daughters are being stigmatized, penalized because of their family ties. The limitations, both social and economic that are placed on them, are unfair. The right thing to do is to let them be reunited with their families. This is a good bill. I am glad it is going to pass unanimously.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER).

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, upon assuming control of the entire nation of Vietnam, the Communist Government imprisoned many of its citizens in reeducation camps where they endured brutal conditions. Many died due to abuse and deprivation. Most of those placed in these camps were sent there because of their service to the governments of South Vietnam and the United States during the Vietnam War.

In 1979, the Orderly Departure Program was created to provide a way for the immediate relatives of those who spent 3 years or more in those camps, and the widows of those who died in the camps to immigrate to the United States. I know a number of these people who now reside in my congressional district and work in a business that I founded. They are productive and patriotic citizens.

However, when the deadline to register for the program expired, many qualified beneficiaries were left behind. The bill of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), H.R. 1840, will offer these individuals an opportunity to be considered for admission under the Ordinary Departure Program through the fiscal year 2003. I support the bill. It is a fair and honorable way to help the families of the brave men and women who endured great suffering for their service to the cause of democracy and their support of the American military and civilian personnel during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Members to vote for H.R. 1840.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1840, which seeks to correct a technical flaw in the immigration and naturalization processes pertaining to refugees of Vietnam and their adult children.

In 1989 the INS granted refugee status to Vietnamese citizens imprisoned in Vietnamese forced reeducation camps. Approximately 200 adult children of those detained in camps were mistakenly denied admission into the United States due to a 1995 change in INS regulations. These regulations have since been changed to correct this error.

Current law stated that INS was to review all such applications by September 30, 2001. This deadline has been outfaced by events, and H.R. 1840 fixes this problem by extending the reapplication deadline to September 2003. I support this legislation because it seeks to remedy an injustice, and because the remedy it provides is comprehensive and narrowly constructed.

H.R. 1840 allows for petitions denied both before and after April 1995 to be reexamined for erroneous denials. Also, this bill will allow adult unmarried children with only one surviving parent with U.S. residency claims to apply as well. This is a further example of how successful our immigration policies can be at promoting societal stability. This legislation recognizes and rewards family bonds. It does so in a way that recognizes the temporal importance of remedying this problem for the health and well being of those Vietnamese refugees involved.

Mr. Speaker, many communities, including my own district in Houston, Texas enjoy thriving Vietnamese populations as a result of immigration. H.R. 1840 promotes greater stability in those communities, as adults who are growing older will be allowed to do so with increased peace of mind that their loved ones might be able to help them grow old with love and dignity. These benefits surely redound to larger society as well by promoting stable families and safer communities. I therefore urge members to support this legislation.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1840, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER MEDAL OF VALOR IN RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 243) expressing the sense of the Congress that the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor should be presented to the public safety officers who have perished and select other public safety officers who deserve special recognition for outstanding valor above and beyond the call of duty in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 243

Whereas on September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked and destroyed 4 civilian aircraft, crashing 2 of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, a third into the Pentagon, and a fourth in rural southwest Pennsylvania;

Whereas thousands of innocent Americans and many foreign nationals were killed and injured as a result of these surprise terrorist attacks, including the passengers and crews of the 4 aircraft, workers in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency assistance personnel, and bystanders;

Whereas hundreds of public safety officers were killed and injured as a result of these terrorist attacks because they immediately rushed to the aid of innocent civilians who were imperiled when the terrorists first launched their attacks, many of whom would perish when the twin towers of the World Trade Center collapsed upon them;

Whereas thousands more public safety officers are risking their own lives and long-term health in sifting through the aftermath and rubble of these terrorist attacks to recover the dead;

Whereas the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–12; 115 Stat. 20) authorizes the President to award and present, in the name of Congress, a Medal of Valor to public safety officers for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty;

Whereas the Attorney General of the United States has discretion to increase the number of recipients of the Medal of Valor under that Act beyond that recommended by the Medal of Valor Review Board in extraordinary cases in any given year;

Whereas the terrorist attacks in the United States of September 11, 2001, and their aftermath constitute the single most deadly assault on our American homeland in our Nation's history; and

Whereas those public safety officers who have perished and those who lead the efforts to rescue innocent civilians from the terrorist attacks, are the first casualties and veterans of America's new war against terrorism, which was authorized by the authorization for use of military force enacted September 14, 2001: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should award and present, in the name of Congress, a Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor to those public safety officers who were killed in the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001; and

(2) the President should award and present a Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor to those public safety officers who have earned special recognition for outstanding valor above and beyond the call of duty as named—

(A) in consultation with the Mayor of the City of New York and Governor of the State of New York for the attacks on New York—

(i) Commissioner of the New York City Police Department;

(ii) Commissioner of the New York City Fire Department; and

(iii) Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey;

(B) in consultation with the Chair of the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments, including the sitting Chairs of the Police and Fire Chief Committees; and the Fort Myer Federal Fire Chief, and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia for the attack at the Pentagon—

(i) Fire Chief of Arlington County, Virginia; and

(ii) Police Chief of Arlington County, Virginia; and

(C) in consultation with the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the plane crash in Pennsylvania—

(i) Commandant of the Pennsylvania State Police; and

(ii) Adjutant General of the Pennsylvania National Guard,

or any of their designees, for their heroic actions on September 11, 2001, and thereafter during the rescue and recovery missions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. 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 material on H. Con. Res. 243.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, of the thousands of people killed on September 11, over 400 were public safety officers. These brave men and women dedicated their lives to the protection of life and property, and in so doing made the ultimate sacrifice. Since that day, thousands of their fellow officers from around the country responded to the attacks and have worked tirelessly at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and western Pennsylvania, and, indeed, all around America and the rest of the world.

I believe it fitting and proper that our Nation honor not only those public safety officers who gave their lives, but also the officers who have demonstrated the highest forms of heroism and valor in the wake of these tragic events.

Mr. Speaker, the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001 was signed into law on May 30. This act established a national medal to be given by the President in the name of the United States Congress to a public safety officer who has displayed extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty. The Public Safety Officer Medal Of Valor is the highest national award for valor that can be given to a firefighter, law enforcement officer, or emergency services officer.

Under this new law, the Attorney General of the United States is charged with selecting the recipients of the medal and is limited to selecting not more than five recipients in a given year. However, in extraordinary circumstances, the Attorney General may increase the number of medals to be awarded in a particular year. Mr. Speaker, no one can argue that the events that occurred on September 11, and the acts of bravery and valor that followed, were anything but extraordinary circumstances. House Con. Res. 243 expresses the sense of Congress that the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor should be presented to all the public safety officers who were killed in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Further, the concurrent resolution states that the Medal of Valor should be presented to those officers who have earned special recognition for outstanding valor for their actions in the hours, days, and weeks following the terrorist attacks.

These officers will be selected in consultation with the Governor of New York, the Mayor of the City of New York, the Governor of Virginia, and the Governor of Pennsylvania, and other officials who have firsthand knowledge of the heroic efforts made by these men and women.

On October 11, 2001, a day of violence, horror and great sadness, America's public safety officers gave their lives trying to save others. They also performed their duties heroically in the face of adversity and tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this concurrent resolution and to provide the many heroes around the country with appropriate recognition by urging the Attorney General to present them with the highest national public safety officer award for valor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, expressing the sense of the Congress that the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor should be presented to the public safety officers who have perished and select other public safety officers who deserve special recognition for outstanding valor above and beyond the call of duty in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001.

□ 1430

The ruthless attacks on the United States by an organized band of terrorists stands in stark contrast to tremendously heroic efforts of our public safety officers who gave their lives so that