

the annals of congressional history, and this resolution ensures that it will be so recorded.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that the House express its gratitude to the GAO and its wonderful employees in the way that this resolution determines. I applaud the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) for bringing this important resolution to the floor.

I urge an aye vote on the motion.

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 294.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the employees of the General Accounting Office who sacrificed their personal offices in order to allow the daily business of Congress to continue. As we were trying to maintain some semblance of normalcy, I was amazed at the willingness of the GAO staff to be flexible in conducting their daily business in less than desirable conditions.

I would personally like to thank Mr. Charles Johnson, Jr., and others whose offices at the GAO housed members of my staff. Although it may seem like a small sacrifice in the larger scheme of things, the employees of the GAO played a critical role during very uncertain times. It is obvious that the GAO, once known as the iron fist of government, has slipped on a silk glove of kindness in this urgent time.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans are making sacrifices to ensure terrorism is stricken from our world. We must not forget to thank everyone for his or her cooperation in this time of crisis. If they have not already done so, I encourage my fellow Members of Congress to join me in thanking the employees of the GAO for their graciousness and flexibility.

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

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

In closing, I just wanted to thank my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), for carrying this resolution once again; also, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the ranking member.

I would just say in closing that we thank from the Comptroller General down the line all of the employees who gave of their time to help us operate. They are truly great Americans, great patriots and, in general, very good people.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise in support of House Resolution 294, which expresses the gratitude of the House of Representatives to the Government Accounting Office and its employees.

Mr. Speaker, the silver lining to the dark cloud cast upon our nation on September 11th is the ability and willingness of all Americans to sacrifice for the good of the nation.

As this Congress looked for ways to carry out the nation's business amid anthrax scares and other security concerns, the Government Accounting Office and its employees graciously vacated office space so that Members of Congress could continue to do the great work that these times require.

For this great sacrifice, we are proud and we are grateful. The criminals who continue to perpetrate these crimes against Congress and other citizens seek to shake the will of our nation and the will of the Body.

By allowing Members and their staffs to use office space, telephones, and computer equipment, the House was able to continue legislative business. This sacrifice sends the important message to anyone who attempts to harm our great nation: We will be defiant and unrelenting in the face of terror.

I would like to join my colleagues in offering a sincere "thank you" to the Government Accounting Office and its employees for their important sacrifice.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution expressing the gratitude of the U.S. House of Representatives to the General Accounting Office for their assistance during the relocation of member offices.

On September 11th, terrorists attempted to weaken our great nation. They failed. In the aftermath of the attacks, the United States continues to stand strong and wave its flag proudly. We are perhaps stronger now, than we were before.

The American people have come together in a way never before seen, to support their country and help those affected by the attacks on our country.

The Comptroller General and the employees of the General Accounting Office are no exception.

When the Capitol and member's offices were assaulted with anthrax, the Comptroller General and the GAO employees generously shared their office space with the members of the House of Representatives and their staffs. GAO employees made quite a sacrifice in doing so. Many were displaced from their own offices in order to provide the House of Representatives with workspace. Because of the selflessness of these employees, the House of Representatives was able to continue to do their work on behalf of the American people and help our nation fight against the evils of terrorism.

Today, I am pleased to join my colleagues in thanking the Comptroller General and the GAO for their assistance. They have been a great help during this very difficult time and their assistance will be remembered.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to express my strong support of this resolution.

Fortunately, it's not every day that the members of this House, and their staffs, must evacuate the House office buildings due to the presence of anthrax.

Let's hope it never happens again. Steps are certainly being taken to ensure it never happens again.

This House indeed owes a debt of gratitude to the General Accounting Office for making it possible for the people's House to continue its work during those two critical weeks.

The chairman's resolution eloquently expresses the sentiments that should be expressed, and I urge all members to support it.

As one whose office is in the Longworth Building, I spent considerable time working at

the GAO. I found it to be a hospitable place, staffed by hospitable, dedicated Federal workers. I want to express my personal thanks to David Walker, the Comptroller General of the United States, for throwing open the doors of his agency to the House. I also want to thank Dick Brown, the GAO's comptroller and chief administrative officer, for spending many hours working to ensure the whole enterprise went smoothly, which it did. And I generally want to thank the dedicated employees of the General Accounting Office who were relocated, or otherwise inconvenienced, to accommodate me and my staff, and other Members and their staffs. Their sacrifice did not go unnoticed, or unappreciated.

Mr. Speaker, we should note that as hundreds of us descended upon the GAO headquarters, GAO's own important work continued, despite the disruption. This is a grand tribute to the professionalism of GAO employees.

The GAO's mission is to support the work of the Congress as our budgetary watchdog. The leadership and staff of the GAO can now say, with pride, that they have supported the work of the House directly as never before. This incident rightly belongs in the annals of congressional history. This resolution ensures it will be properly recorded.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that the House express its gratitude to the GAO and its wonderful employees for allowing us to continue our operations during this time. I applaud the chairman for bringing this resolution to the floor. I urge an "aye" vote on the motion.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H.Res. 294.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. 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 the subject of House Resolution 294, the resolution just agreed to.

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

There was no objection.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD ASSIST STATES TO MAINTAIN ADVANCEMENTS IN EDUCATION

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, due to the faltering