

these obstacles is the expanding volumes of regulations where small businesses are mandated to learn and comply with government guidelines. The number of Federal regulations has nearly doubled over the past 20 years. The Federal Register, the resource book of Federal regulatory initiatives and changes, has increased to nearly 80,000 pages. With these kinds of rules and regulations, small businesses are finding themselves confused and often lost in piles of regulatory paperwork. It is difficult in this economy for small businesses to grow and prosper. The excess Federal Government paperwork requirements cost the economy about \$100 billion a year. Much of this cost is paid by small business owners.

Mr. Speaker, this is the reason why I support the passage of H.R. 205, the National Small Business Regulatory Act of 2003. This bill requires the Small Business Administration to enter into an agreement with participating small business development centers to provide small businesses with the information necessary to improve their rate of compliance with Federal and State regulations. Businesses would receive confidential, free, one-on-one, in-depth counseling regarding compliance with Federal and State regulations and would indeed receive referrals to experts and other providers of compliance assistance.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I commend the chairman (Mr. MANZULLO) and the ranking member. I think that this is probably one of the most bipartisan committees in the House. It is a committee that does indeed work well together and it is indeed a committee that turns out legislation like this bill that I am pleased to support.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 205, The National Small Business Regulatory Assistance Act of 2003. This bill amends the Small Business Act to direct the establishment of a program which would provide regulatory compliance assistance to small businesses through participating Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), the Association for SBDCs, and Federal compliance partnership programs.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I on the Small Business Committee have dedicated much time and energy to addressing the issue small business' burden of complying with federal regulations. One of the greatest challenges facing small business owners is understanding and affording their regulatory requirements. Often, small businesses are so heavily penalized for non-compliance with regulatory requirements, that they are forced out of business. Imagine being a small business, in the current state of our economy, and being faced with paying a \$73,000.00 penalty for not submitting enough "supporting documentation." Mr. Speaker, this is not hypothetical—it is reality.

The House Small Business Committee has held many hearings to examine the myriad of regulations that small businesses are subjected to. For example, it is estimated that the

Medicaid/Medicare program, alone, has over 100,000 pages of laws and regulations. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has over 200 forms that generate 1.7 million annual responses from health care providers. These forms consume over 100 million hours every year that health care providers could have been using to treat patients.

Committee and Member staff often serve as an intermediary between small businesses and the federal government in resolving federal regulatory compliance issues. What we are doing in this bill is expanding the scope of the SBDC network to educate small business owners to ensure greater compliance of federal regulations. There are more than 1,000 SBDC service locations in the United States, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa. By using the SBDC network to conduct this pilot program, H.R. 205 ensures that American entrepreneurs receive regulatory information in a proven vessel.

Last Congress, this legislation passed the House but did not get signed into law. I continued support until we are finally able to adopt this into law. I would also like to commend Representative SWEENEY for continuing to move this bill forward.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 205.

I support H.R. 205 because the National Small Business Regulatory Assistance Act of 2003 establishes valuable programs that help America's small businesses and entrepreneurs.

H.R. 205 helps small businesses by establishing a program that provides confidential assistance to small business concerns, and provides small businesses with the information needed to improve their compliance with Federal and State regulatory agencies.

H.R. 205 also enhances the role of federal and state regulatory agencies by creating a partnership among various Federal agencies to increase outreach efforts to small businesses, and utilizes the service delivery network of Small Business Development Centers to assist small businesses with access to programs and assistance with regulatory compliance.

The positive impact of Small Business Development Centers on small businesses and local economies can be seen by looking at the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the University of Houston in my home District.

The University of Houston SBDC provides many services including business management, government procurement, and international trade assistance. It also provides training and consulting services. The Houston SBDC has helped many small businesses excel in Houston's business market. Each year the SBDC gives awards to Houston's Top 100 growing businesses. In 2002, in part because of the efforts of the SBDC, a small business Houston floral products distribution business, Arko Associates, Inc., experienced 191% growth. Another small business Smart Kids Software, an education software firm, experienced 199% growth. Each of these businesses made the Houston Top 100.

These small businesses enhance the quality of life in our local communities.

H.R. 205 provides the services and regulatory compliance assistance to help many small businesses and entrepreneurs stay in business.

I support H.R. 205.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 205.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. 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.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINKING OF THE U.S.S. "THRESHER"

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 170) recognizing the 40th anniversary of the sinking of the U.S.S. *Thresher*.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H. RES. 170

Whereas the U.S.S. *Thresher* was first launched at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on July 9, 1960;

Whereas, with a crew of 16 officers, 96 sailors, and 17 civilians, the U.S.S. *Thresher* departed Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for her final voyage on April 9, 1963;

Whereas the military and civilian mix of the U.S.S. *Thresher* crew reflects the unity of the naval submarine service in the protection of the United States;

Whereas at approximately 7:47 a.m. on April 10, 1963, while in communication with the surface ship U.S.S. *Skylark*, and approximately 300 miles off the coast of New England, the U.S.S. *Thresher* began her final descent;

Whereas, on April 10, 1963, the U.S.S. *Thresher* was declared lost with all hands;

Whereas the loss of the U.S.S. *Thresher* gave rise to the SUBSAFE program, which has kept United States' submariners safe at sea as the strongest and safest submarine force in history;

Whereas the loss of the U.S.S. *Thresher* gave rise to an ocean engineering curricula in institutions of higher education that has enabled and sustained the United States' preeminence in submarine warfare; and

Whereas the crew of the U.S.S. *Thresher* demonstrated the "last full measure of devotion" in service to the United States, and this devotion characterizes the sacrifices of all submariners, past and present: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 40th anniversary of the sinking of the U.S.S. *Thresher*;

(2) remembers with profound sorrow the loss on April 10, 1963, of the U.S.S. *Thresher* and her gallant crew of sailors and civilians;

(3) expresses its deepest gratitude to all submariners on "eternal patrol", who are

forever bound together by their dedicated and honorable service to the United States; and

(4) requests the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Chief of Naval Operations and to the Commanding Officer of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to be accepted on behalf of the families and shipmates of the crew of the U.S.S. *Thresher*.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 170, the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise today to honor the memory of the crew of the U.S.S. *Thresher*, an American nuclear submarine which was lost with all hands during sea trials off the coast of Cape Cod 40 years ago.

The *Thresher* was the first of a new class of nuclear submarines that would prove to be instrumental in ending the Cold War. I speak today to commend the bravery and heroism of 129 men who lost their lives in this terrible accident, and to honor all of our men and women in the armed services who have given their lives to protect our freedoms.

The nuclear attack submarine, U.S.S. *Thresher*, was commissioned on August 3, 1961 under the command of Commander Dean Axene. This was the second ship to carry the name *Thresher*, and was built at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard has a long and distinguished history of building and maintaining the Navy's submarine fleet. During World War II, Portsmouth established a record for building the largest number of submarines during a single calendar year, 31 in 1944.

On October 18 of that year, the *Thresher* sailed south to Puerto Rico, where she conducted sea trials of her weapon systems and diving mechanisms. Upon completion of these extensive tests, the *Thresher* returned to her home port of Portsmouth for an overhaul before commencing active duty. After finishing the overhaul, she was escorted by the U.S.S. *Skylark* to an area 300 miles off the coast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

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There she conducted a series of deep-diving tests. During one of these tests, the *Skylark* received a number of garbled transmissions from the *Thresher*, followed by what sounded like rushing

water. After an extended loss of communications with the submarine, a search and rescue team was deployed. In April 1963, it was determined that she had gone down taking all 129 lives of her crew.

The brave men who served on this submarine died while in service of their country, but their sacrifice was not in vain because from this tragic accident came the creation of the United States Navy SUBSAFE program. This program increased the standards of all United States Naval submarines' reserve buoyancy, allowing submarines to rise to the surface more quickly and easily, even when damaged or flooding. Because of the success of this program, the United States Navy has the safest submarine force in history.

It is important not to forget the role that the United States submarine fleet played in winning the Cold War. It was the power and strength of the United States submarines that provided an invaluable deterrence which enabled the United States to win the Cold War and end the threat of Soviet aggression.

The submarine crews who gave their lives while protecting the United States made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and should be honored as they stand on eternal patrol. During this time of conflict and unrest, I believe we must pay tribute to the crew of the *Thresher* and all submarine crews who have given their lives to protect the freedoms and liberties that we enjoy as American citizens. I urge strong support for this resolution.

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I rise in strong support of H. Res. 170, a resolution to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the tragedy of the USS *Thresher*, and I thank the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) for bringing this resolution forward. The gentleman from New Hampshire and I jointly represent almost all of the workforce at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard where the *Thresher* was built in 1961 and which continues to serve a vital function for the Navy in submarine repair and overhaul.

Mr. Speaker, 40 years ago 129 sailors, officers and civilians lost their lives when the USS *Thresher* went down off the coast of Cape Cod. It was one of the worst peacetime submarine disasters in history. The *Thresher* was the lead ship of a new class of nuclear-powered submarines. Following commissioning in August 1961, the *Thresher* spent the next year and a half in sea trials to test its technological enhancements. It returned to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for overhaul.

On April 9, 1963, the *Thresher* departed for deep-sea training. The next morning as the boat was near its maximum depth, something went wrong.

The *Thresher's* crew notified its companion ship on the surface, the USS *Skylark*, that it was experiencing minor difficulties. The *Skylark* then received ominous but less clear signals, and soon realized that the *Thresher* had sunk to the depths with all souls on board.

Despite a depth of 8,400 feet, the Navy located the wreckage. It was able to investigate and discovered the likely cause of the catastrophe. A leak in the engine room seawater system had caused a reactor shutdown, and left the sub insufficient power to resurface. The loss of the *Thresher* and its crew left an important legacy for future generations of submariners.

The Navy subsequently implemented new procedures such as the SUBSAFE program to ensure that no submarine would ever again enter the water without a full safety certification and rigorous test program. These changes have benefited the Navy and saved lives over the last 4 decades.

This week, memorials are being conducted at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to mark the 40th anniversary of the tragedy. This resolution pays tribute to the crew of the USS *Thresher*, who continue to be remembered throughout New England for their bravery and sacrifice. Today we offer our remembrance and our gratitude to them and express our sorrow to the families they left behind.

Again, I appreciate the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) in bringing forth this resolution and ask the whole House to join us in honoring the lost crew of the *Thresher*.

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this resolution being brought to the House floor today. April 10, 1963, marks the 40th anniversary for the loss of the *Thresher* and brings home once again the dangers inherent in military service, particularly with regard to new technology.

Our edge militarily in America has been and will continue to be our technology, but with new technology comes unexpected risks; and that is what was seen with the *Thresher*.

A word about nuclear-powered submarines, and that is that not only did these men demonstrate courage, but also the very nature of their work demonstrates intelligence, high levels of education, long-term commitments to the submarine service and to the nuclear force. We also have to recognize the dedication and perseverance of their family members who have to share with them their commitment to nuclear submarines.

So today we pay tribute to the 129 men, including 17 civilians, who were lost 40 years ago and now rest at 8,400 feet in the ocean. I thank the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) for bringing this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathies to the crew and families that perished with the

USS *Thresher*. On board was a crew of 16 officers, 96 sailors and 17 civilians, and on April 10, 1963, the submarine was declared lost with all hands.

I am in support of the House Resolution 170, in recognizing the 40th anniversary of the sinking of the USS *Thresher*. I hope we all can take a moment to remember with profound sorrow the loss of those brave and gallant people aboard, both sailors and civilians.

I also want to take this time to express my deepest gratitude to all submariners on "eternal patrol." These men and women are forever bound together by their dedicated and honorable service to the United States, and we thank you for taking such pride in this honor.

The loss of the USS *Thresher* gave rise to the SUBSAFE program. This has kept United States Submariners safe at sea, and we have the safest and strongest submarine fleet in history. Its loss also gave rise to furthering oceanic studies, so we can continue to protect the men and women who serve our nation so well.

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

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 170.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. 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.

#### EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ASSASSINATION OF PRIME MINISTER ZORAN DJINDJIC OF SERBIA

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 149) expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives in response to the assassination of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic of Serbia, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. RES. 149

Whereas Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic symbolized the hopes of a new generation of Serbs exhausted by decades of war and turmoil until he was felled by 2 sniper bullets in front of his office in the center of Belgrade on Wednesday, March 12, 2003;

Whereas Djindjic's killing was a heinous attack on democracy;

Whereas Zoran Djindjic was born on August 1, 1952, in Bosnia and became politically active during his student years at the University of Belgrade;

Whereas after spending several months in jail for attempting to create an autonomous

noncommunist student organization with fellow students from Croatia and Slovenia, Zoran Djindjic moved to Germany, where he earned a doctorate in philosophy under Jürgen Habermas in 1979, and returned to Yugoslavia in 1989 to teach philosophy at Novi Sad University;

Whereas in 1989, Djindjic joined a group of Serb dissident writers and intellectuals to found the Democratic Party;

Whereas one year later, Djindjic was voted the Chairman of the Democratic Party Executive Board and in January 1994, he was elected the party's president;

Whereas Djindjic became a member of the Serbian Parliament in 1990, serving as the party's parliamentary group whip and a member of the Republic's Council at the Federal Parliament 3 years later;

Whereas following 88 days of mass protests over electoral manipulation during local elections in 1996, Zoran Djindjic was elected Belgrade's first noncommunist mayor since World War II;

Whereas Djindjic is widely believed to be the chief strategist and main organizer behind the Yugoslav presidential elections of September 24, 2000, and the uprising of October 5, 2000, that resulted in the overthrow and delivery of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), that was investigating atrocities committed during the tragic and violent breakup of Yugoslavia;

Whereas subsequent cooperation with the ICTY has been judged to be less than optimal, but in recent months Prime Minister Djindjic moved forcefully to fight the organized criminal structures that Serbia inherited from the Milosevic era and to arrest war criminals who have remained at large;

Whereas Djindjic is also credited with mastering the Serbian elections of December 2000, in which the Democratic Opposition of Serbia (DOS), a coalition of 18 parties spanning a broad range of the political spectrum, won 65 percent of the popular vote;

Whereas the DOS elected Djindjic to be Prime Minister of Serbia on January 25, 2001;

Whereas during his 2-year tenure as Prime Minister, Zoran Djindjic sought to advance democracy, human rights, free market reforms, and the rule of law;

Whereas Djindjic's leadership raised desperately low living standards and advanced the integration of Serbia into Europe; and

Whereas Prime Minister Djindjic managed to maintain a disparate 17-party coalition government with a narrow majority in order to achieve these urgently needed reforms: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the House of Representatives offers its condolences and deepest sympathy to the people of Serbia and the family of Zoran Djindjic following the assassination of Prime Minister Djindjic;

(2) the House of Representatives understands that organized criminal groups within Serbian society continue to threaten the free and democratic government of Serbia and Montenegro;

(3) the House of Representatives recognizes that while implementing necessary reforms and cooperating with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia may carry significant risks for the leadership of Serbia and Montenegro, these reforms and this cooperation are necessary and must continue; and

(4) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should support continued democratic reforms initiated by Zoran Djindjic, should urge his successors to dedicate themselves to continue to support his road to reform, and should pledge to assist Serbia and its new leadership in ac-

complishing these necessary reforms, including efforts to fight organized crime and corruption.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today in strong support of H. Res. 149, a resolution expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives in response to the assassination of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic of Serbia. It is with sadness that this Member brings this resolution to the floor of the House of Representatives today. Prime Minister Djindjic was assassinated on March 12. This tragic event was a shock to the people of Serbia, to the people of the Balkans, and to people around the world.

If anyone represented the present state of the Balkans, all of the changes that occurred in recent years, the hope for a free, democratic and prosperous future, it was Prime Minister Djindjic. He was the decisive leader who played a critical role in bringing democracy to Serbia. He was probably the most visible and important proponent of helping the Serbian people come to terms with the past, the destruction and the injustices of the tragic events which have been happening in the Balkans over the past decade. He was the leader most determined to integrate his country into Europe and the community of Western democracies, to provide a future of security, prosperity, and hope to the Serbian people.

However, only 2½ years after the overthrow of Slobodan Milosevic, let us not forget how fragile freedom and democracy in the region really is. During this crucial period, Prime Minister Djindjic was the leader who represented the best hope for the changes and reforms necessary to lead the former Yugoslavia to a new and different direction; but in the context of a country and a region of so much violence, hatred and corruption over the past decade, anyone who would have made these necessary forums would certainly make enemies and endanger both himself and the path of reform in his country.

Prime Minister Djindjic sought to change the political system in Serbia, sought to fight organized crime and official corruption, and sought to bring suspected war criminals to justice. He