

and managing volunteers. They help ensure the volunteer's time is used effectively to provide the maximum benefit to the organization and the people it serves.

I still remember how I felt as a 14-year-old watching the 1960 Presidential election between Vice President Richard Nixon and Senator John Kennedy. I felt energized listening to Senator Kennedy when he spoke of the Peace Corps and making the world a better and safer place. I wanted to be part of his vision. I wanted to give to the world community. Years later that dream was fulfilled when my wife, Betsi, and I served 2 years in the Peace Corps. The same powerful emotions, the same sense of energy and eagerness we felt in the 1960s is alive today and expressed by those who give back to their communities.

Today is a day to recognize the millions of Americans who volunteer and express our sincere gratitude for their service.

I thank my colleague CAROL SHEA-PORTER, for introducing this resolution.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. I now yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

□ 1515

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, before I say anything else, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies and prayers to the families and friends of the victims of yesterday's tragedy, and to the entire Virginia Tech community.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 293 which recognizes the diligent efforts of federally funded and volunteer programs, and generally observes the role of volunteers in the life of our country. When somebody volunteers to perform a service, it is not only a service for other people, it is a service for them as well.

Now more than ever, Americans need a restored sense of greatness and purpose. On the release of the Corporation for National and Community Service's report on volunteering in America, CEO David Eisner's remarks poignantly address the importance of community and national service. He said, "Service and volunteering aren't just nice things to do, but are necessary parts of how our Nation deals with its challenges."

In the wake of tragedies such as Hurricane Katrina, hundreds of thousands of lives have been changed for the better because of the dedication and hard work of volunteers all across the country. But it is not enough. We can do much more. According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, while there has been a significant increase in the number of volunteers nationwide, one in three Americans dropped out of volunteering between 2005 and 2006. Volunteer programs need more than just willing and able volunteers, they need national support.

By reinvigorating national and community service programs, and honoring

our volunteers, we feed our democratic spirit and cultivate citizenship. Being engaged in democracy through service, we bolster the best of what citizenship is about. The result will be more vibrant communities and a stronger America, cultivated through experiences that all people share regardless of their background. No young American should be deprived of these opportunities due to a lack of commitment from Washington.

I ask for your support of H. Res. 293.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I urge passage of H. Res. 293, and thank Ms. SHEA-PORTER for her introduction of this resolution, and hope that all of our fellow Americans will experience and celebrate the spirit of volunteerism throughout our country.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 293 honoring volunteer service and thank Representative SHEA-PORTER for introducing this bill. As Chairwoman of the Healthy Families and Communities Subcommittee, I wanted to highlight this extremely important issue which is why the first hearing the HFC Subcommittee held was on national service. This is a bipartisan issue, and I am looking forward to working with Ranking Member PLATTS to move ahead on reauthorizing the service bill.

National service has a distinguished and strong history in our Nation. Our roots in service extend back to the first pioneers, when colonists had to ban together to overcome the challenges of surviving and adjusting to a new land.

Evidence shows that service and volunteering lowers dropout rates among teens, lowers crime rates in communities with high rates of volunteerism, lowers costs associated with the aging population and improves the health and lowers the rates of depression among the elderly. Volunteering is a cost effective way of meeting our Nation's social needs both from the standpoint of the volunteers and the people who benefit from the services.

In my home state of New York, more than 76,000 people of all ages and backgrounds are helping to meet local needs and strengthen communities. There are 239 national service programs in New York alone. In my district we have more than 1,300 service volunteers, and we have almost 3,000 students age K-12 that participate in the Learn and Serve programs.

I truly believe that expanding national service, particularly to disadvantaged youth, is an effective way to combat things like youth gangs and violence, and the evidence bears that out. And it is critical that we begin teaching about participation and service at an early age.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Congresswoman SHEA-PORTER for her hard work to in introducing this resolution. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 293, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 293.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. 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 question will be postponed.

TREATING CERTAIN COMMUNITIES AS METROPOLITAN CITIES FOR PURPOSES OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1515) to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to treat certain communities as metropolitan cities for purposes of the community development block grant program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1515

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

SECTION 1. METROPOLITAN CITIES.

Paragraph (4) of section 102(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, with respect to any fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this sentence, the cities of Alton and Granite City, Illinois, shall be considered metropolitan cities for purposes of this title."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this is a bipartisan bill that passed our committee unanimously. It addresses a series of glitches which have resulted in the communities of Alton and Granite City, Illinois, losing their status as entitlement communities under the community development block grant program.

These are both cities that have done a very good job of using these funds. There is no reason why they should not continue to be allowed to enjoy this. The events which led to this having happened are complicated, and even more relevant, quite boring, so it does not seem to me that the House would much care about them.

The relevant point is that there is a unanimous view on the part of our committee, and this has been urged on us by the gentlemen from Illinois, Mr. SHIMKUS and Mr. COSTELLO, that we

should restore Alton and Granite City to their rightful places as entitlement cities, and I hope the House will do that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution that would restore the entitlement status to Alton and Granite City for consideration in the community development block grant program.

I want to thank my colleague and friend, Congressman COSTELLO, who will be following me, for his leadership on this. This is a snafu that happens in government, and we are glad to come together, united, to attempt to fix this.

The bottom line geographical issues are that I am from Collinsville, Illinois, in Madison County. I represent half that county. Granite City and Alton are actually in Madison County. Congressman COSTELLO represents those communities ably and well. So we come together to try to fix this.

I want to thank the chairman of the committee, who heard our concerns and moved this expeditiously, along with the ranking member, Mr. BACHUS, and my good friend, JUDY BIGGERT, who helped in the process.

We look forward to a time when Alton and Granite City can get involved in the process and make applications through the CDBG for the needed infrastructure developments that are available through that Federal program.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the prime author of this bill, who is a very vigorous advocate for one of the communities he represents, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO).

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Financial Services Committee not only for yielding time to me, but for handling this bill in a very quick fashion and getting it to the floor today.

I think everything that needs to be said about this legislation has been said by the chairman and my colleague from Collinsville, Illinois.

I urge passage of this legislation.

H.R. 1515 would allow the cities of Alton and Granite City in Illinois to maintain principal city designation for entitlement purposes under the Community Development Block Grant program.

Alton and Granite City have been a part of the Madison County CDBG program since its inception in 1975 for purposes of receiving grants as entitlement communities under the CDBG program.

In 1999, Alton and Granite City deferred their entitlement status so Madison County would not lose entitlement status as a county.

This agreement proved to be satisfactory until the OMB changed definitions. OMB no longer recognizes the "central city" status. The new "principal city" designation requires a

minimum population of 50,000, which neither community meets.

As a result, both communities lost entitlement status for purposes of the CDBG program, while all other "central city" communities were grandfathered into the program.

HUD has determined that Alton & Grantie City are the only communities to have lost CDBG entitlement status in the Nation as a result of the recent OMB changes in how counties are defined.

As a result, Granite City and Alton are no longer part of an entitlement community.

At no time did the cities or the county believe that, by deferring their status in previous years, they would be jeopardizing future funding.

Madam Speaker, I again thank Chairman BARNEY FRANK, Ranking Member BACHUS, and Congressman SHIMKUS, for working together in a bipartisan manner to address this unique situation.

Other information:

Both communities are older industrial cities that have suffered from job losses and have higher than local, State and national unemployment levels. Both have had large employers, including steel mills in both cities, close. Both have an older housing stock and lower income residents. Additionally, both have a disproportionate share of public housing, in comparison to the balance of the region.

Alton population: 30,500; Granite City population: 31,301.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1515.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1804

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MEEKS of New York) at 6 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1257, SHAREHOLDER VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION ACT

Mr. ARCURI, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report

(Rept. No. 110-96) on the resolution (H. Res. 301) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1257) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide shareholders with an advisory vote on executive compensation, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1361, RELIEF FOR ENTREPRENEURS: COORDINATION OF OBJECTIVES AND VALUES FOR EFFECTIVE RECOVERY ACT OF 2007

Mr. ARCURI, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-97) on the resolution (H. Res. 302) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1361) to improve the disaster relief programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

- H.R. 1677, by the yeas and nays;
 - H. Res. 196, by the yeas and nays;
 - H. Con. Res. 100, by the yeas and nays;
 - H. Res. 273, by the yeas and nays;
 - H. Con. Res. 76, by the yeas and nays.
- Proceedings on H. Res. 293 will resume tomorrow.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1677, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1677, as amended.

This will be a 15-minute note.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 7, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 214]
YEAS—407

Abercrombie	Altmire	Baker
Ackerman	Andrews	Baldwin
Aderholt	Arcuri	Barrett (SC)
Akin	Baca	Barrow
Alexander	Bachus	Bartlett (MD)
Allen	Baird	Barton (TX)