

experience the facility as it will appear to our constituents.

As we complete the final steps before the facility opens, I thank Chairman BRADY for his leadership in bringing this important legislation to the floor. As I said earlier, this bill has a unique history with considerable difficulties, and I commend Chairman BRADY for managing to steer this bill through the pitfalls and rapids that often encumber bills, and he has presented an excellent bill to this Congress.

This bill will ensure effective management and administration of the Capitol Visitor Center with oversight by the Committee on House Administration and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. I look forward to continuing to work closely with Chairman BRADY as we continue our oversight activities over the Capitol Visitor Center, and as we near its November 2008 opening date and far, far beyond. I once again thank the chairman for his good work on this bill.

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

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for all of his cooperation on a day-to-day basis, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5159, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT MEMBERS' CONGRESSIONAL PAPERS SHOULD BE PROPERLY MAINTAINED

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 307) expressing the sense of Congress that Members' Congressional papers should be properly maintained and encouraging Members to take all necessary measures to manage and preserve these papers.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 307

Whereas Members' Congressional papers (including papers of Delegates and Resident Commissioners to the Congress) serve as indispensable sources for the study of American representative democracy;

Whereas these papers document vital national, regional, and local public policy issues;

Whereas these papers are crucial to the public's understanding of the role of Congress in making the Nation's laws and responding to the needs of its citizens;

Whereas because these papers serve as essential primary sources for the history of

Congress, the study of these papers will illuminate the careers of individual Members;

Whereas by custom, these papers are considered the personal property of the Member who receives and creates them, and it is therefore the Member who is responsible to decide on their ultimate disposition; and

Whereas resources are available through the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate to assist Members with the professional and cost-effective management and preservation of these papers: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) Members' Congressional papers (including papers of Delegates and Resident Commissioners to the Congress) should be properly maintained;

(2) each Member of Congress should take all necessary measures to manage and preserve the Member's own Congressional papers; and

(3) each Member of Congress should be encouraged to arrange for the deposit or donation of the Member's own noncurrent Congressional papers with a research institution that is properly equipped to care for them, and to make these papers available for educational purposes at a time the Member considers appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks in the RECORD on H. Con. Res. 307.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is very easy for Members to get caught up in the day-to-day responsibilities of their job. In between regular correspondence, speeches, and vote recommendations, Members accumulate a lot of paper. Most will not give consideration to the importance of this paper until the end or middle of their careers.

The papers generated by Members while in office reflect the issues of the day and are of historical benefit to students, scholars, and citizens in understanding the role of the House of Representatives in the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 307 is a concurrent resolution that reminds Members of the importance of maintaining and archiving their papers so that future leaders and citizens of history may learn and understand the decisions that we have made. I urge passage of H. Con. Res. 307.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 307, which expresses the sense of the Congress that congressional papers should be properly maintained and encourages Members to take all necessary measures to manage and preserve these papers.

This is a very important issue, and one that I am also delinquent on, as I suspect most Members are. At various times I have encouraged my staff to be certain that we take proper care of papers, that we maintain them, and that they are available for archiving once we leave office. But yet, it is a very difficult task to do this on a day-to-day basis and remember to do it.

Let me also bemoan the fact that the executive branch has been subjected to lawsuits on this issue, and the courts have declared they must save every little piece of paper, every message, and they are open to scrutiny and subpoena at any time in the future. The net effect of this is that the White House puts hardly anything down on paper, a practice that was developed in the previous administration as well. That is unfortunate. We should have the freedom to express our thoughts freely and make certain that they are preserved in a fashion that prevents them from being used improperly in future times.

As Members of Congress, we are routinely faced with an abundance of notes, letters, and other papers that cross our desk each day. For each of us, there is a temptation to rid ourselves of today's notes and papers and begin each day anew, free from the scourge of clutter. And I know my office certainly should be more free of clutter. It would be easiest to discard these items along with rest of the day's castoffs, but as history has shown us, it is often these mundane items that have painted the most accurate and detailed picture of our Nation's history.

These papers and their contents separately may tell us very little about the place and time in which they were created, but they are threads that, when woven together, create the fabric of our democracy.

While congressional papers are the property and responsibility of the Member, the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate stand ready to assist Members of Congress in the disposition and handling of these materials. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in the effort to retain congressional documents, and in doing so, preserve a piece of history for the sake of our individual and collective posterity.

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

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. I thank the ranking member, Mr. EHLERS, for your cooperation. It is a pleasure working with you from day to day.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the

rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 307.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1330

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THOSE AFFECTED BY THE DEVASTATING SHOOTING INCIDENT AT NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1007) expressing the condolences of the House to those affected by the devastating shooting incident of February 14, 2008, at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1007

Whereas on Thursday, February 14, 2008, a gunman entered a lecture hall on the campus of Northern Illinois University and opened fire on the students assembled there;

Whereas the gunman took the lives of 5 students and wounded 17 more;

Whereas the 5 students who lost their lives that day were—

(1) Gayle Dubowski, age 20, of Carol Stream, Illinois, a devout member of her church who sang in the church choir and worked as a camp counselor and volunteer in rural Kentucky;

(2) Catalina “Cati” Garcia, age 20, of Cicero, Illinois, a first-generation American who had hoped to be a teacher, was her family’s “princess” and inspiration, and was rarely seen without a beaming smile;

(3) Julianna Gehant, age 32, of Mendota, Illinois, who dreamed of becoming a teacher, and who spent more than 12 years in the United States Army and Army Reserve, serving our Nation and saving money for college;

(4) Ryanne Mace, age 19, of Carpentersville, Illinois, a much-loved only child who was rarely without a warm smile and hoped to be a counselor so she could help others; and

(5) Daniel Parmenter, age 20, of Westchester, Illinois, “Danny” to his friends, a 6-foot, 5-inch rugby player with a gentle spirit and bright future, who died trying to protect his girlfriend from gunfire;

Whereas the Northern Illinois University Police Department, the Police Departments of DeKalb, Sycamore, Aurora, Batavia, Cortland, Galesburg, Genoa, Geneva, Mendota, St. Charles, Rockford, and the Village of Winnebago, the Conservation Police, the Sheriff’s Offices of DeKalb County, Winnebago County, and Kane County, the Kane County Bomb Squad, the Illinois State Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Reach/Air Angel, Flight for Life, Life Line, the Salvation Army, and the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department of DeKalb, Sycamore, Cortland, Malta, Maple Park, Rochelle, Hampshire, Burlington, Shabbona, Hinckley, Genoa-Kingston, Waterman, Elburn, St. Charles, Ogle-Lee, Kaneville, Sugar Grove, North Aurora, and Somonauk responded to the emergency promptly and assisted capably in the initial crisis and the subsequent investigations;

Whereas the emergency responders and the doctors, nurses, and other health care providers at Kishwaukee Community Hospital, Saint Anthony Medical Center, Good Samaritan Hospital, Rockford Memorial Hospital, and Northwestern Memorial Hospital provided professional and dedicated care to the victims;

Whereas hundreds of volunteer counselors from Illinois and across the Nation have come to Northern Illinois University to assist the campus community;

Whereas the students, faculty, staff, and administration of Northern Illinois University, the people of the city of DeKalb and the State of Illinois, and all Americans have mourned the victims of this tragedy and have offered support to the victims’ friends and families and to the greater Northern Illinois University community;

Whereas Northern Illinois University has established a scholarship fund to honor the memory of the students slain in the February 14 tragedy; and

Whereas the Northern Illinois University community is determined to move “forward, together forward”, in the words of the Huskie fight song, and to persevere through this tragedy with heavy hearts but unbroken spirits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its sincere condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those who were killed in the tragic shooting on February 14, 2008, at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois: Gayle Dubowski, Catalina Garcia, Julianna Gehant, Ryanne Mace, and Daniel Parmenter;

(2) extends its support and prayers to those who were wounded and wishes them a speedy recovery;

(3) commends the emergency responders, law enforcement officers, health care providers, and counselors who performed their duties with professionalism and dedication in response to the tragedy;

(4) reaffirms its commitment to helping ensure that schools, colleges, and universities in the United States are safe and secure environments for learning; and

(5) expresses its solidarity with Northern Illinois University and its students, faculty, staff, and administration as they mourn their losses and as they recover from this tragic incident.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 1007 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my deepest sympathies to the victims and families who suffered the horrific shooting tragedy at Northern Illinois University. My thoughts and prayers go out to all those who have suffered through this great loss, especially the families, students, faculty and staff of the university.

Northern Illinois University is one of the largest schools in Illinois, providing higher education to more than 25,000 students. The effects of this tragedy can be felt all across the State, and have echoed throughout the Nation.

Parents send their children to school each day to learn about the world around them and to grow and develop into responsible adults. Parents that send their children off to college expect that they will be safe and will graduate with newfound knowledge and a bright future.

As we mourn with the Northern Illinois University community, this Congress must continue in its work to make all schools safe in order to prevent this kind of tragedy in the future. We must continue to work with our colleges and universities to develop ways to anticipate, identify and prevent these horrific and disturbing acts of violence.

Mr. Speaker, we stand to show our support to the family, students, faculty and staff of Northern Illinois University who continue on despite the tragic events surrounding them. I know that the healing process will take time, but I also hope that some day soon, all members of the Northern Illinois University community will feel the safety and security that all students should have.

Mr. Speaker, especially do I want to extend appreciation to the president of Northern Illinois University, to the faculty and staff, and especially one program, something called the Chance Program, which opens its doors to students from all over the State, provides the sanctuary of the opportunity to get the best possible education, and we hope that they can put this tragedy behind them as we continue to move forward.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1007 to pay final respects and express the condolences of the House of Representatives for those affected by the devastating shooting incident on the campus of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois on February 14, 2008.

On that dark Valentine’s Day, five students lost their lives, and 17 others were injured. Those five who were taken from their families are: 20-year-old Gayle Dubowski of Carol Stream, 20-year-old Catalina Garcia of Cicero, 32-year-old Julianna Gehant of Mendota, 19-year-old Ryanne Mace of Carpentersville, and 20-year-old Daniel Parmenter of Westchester.

The wounds suffered that day have been deeply felt by those families that lost loved ones, but the entire Nation shares in their pain. Messages of support continue to flow in from across the country and around the world.

I would like to take special note of the extraordinary outpouring of kindness and sympathy from the students