

Activities on the Capitol grounds conducted under House Concurrent Resolution 38 will be coordinated with the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, and will be free and open to the public. I support this resolution and urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Maryland has done a great job explaining this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 38, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on May 15, 2009.

In October 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15th as National Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and the week in which that date falls as "Police Week". Each year on this day, our country honors the devotion and service of the peace officers who protect our neighborhoods, our cities, our friends, and our families.

This year's Memorial Service will honor the more than 140 Federal, state, and local law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2008, and will mark the 28th time the Capitol grounds will be used for this noteworthy event. During 2008, 41 officers were killed by gun fire, 71 officers were killed in traffic related accidents, and 15 women were killed in the line of duty.

Activities on the Capitol Grounds conducted under H. Con. Res. 38 will be coordinated with the Architect of the Capitol, will be free, and open to the public.

The selfless work of our police and firemen has always been a model of courage and moral strength. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 38.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 38.

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. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 39) authorizing the use of

the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 39

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR DC SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN.

On June 5, 2009, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate may jointly designate, the 2009 District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run (in this resolution referred to as the "event") may be run through the Capitol Grounds as part of the journey of the Special Olympics torch to the District of Columbia Special Olympics summer games.

SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITY OF CAPITOL POLICE BOARD.

The Capitol Police Board shall take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the event.

SEC. 3. CONDITIONS RELATING TO PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS.

The Architect of the Capitol may prescribe conditions for physical preparations for the event.

SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. 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 materials on House Concurrent Resolution 39.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Concurrent Resolution authorizes the use of the Capitol grounds for the District of Columbia's Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run. The Capitol Police, along with the D.C. Special Olympics, will participate in the torch run to be held on June 5, 2009.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics is run nationwide by law enforcement officers, leading up to each State or national Special Olympics summer games.

Each year, nearly 50 local and Federal law enforcement agencies in Washington, D.C., participate to show their

support of the D.C. Special Olympics. This torch relay event is a traditional part of the opening ceremonies for the Special Olympics.

Since its inception, over 15,000 District of Columbia citizens with disabilities have participated in the Special Olympics. Funds raised from the Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics helps support year-round training and programs for Special Olympics in the District of Columbia. This type of support led to seven Special Olympics athletes competing in the Penn relays in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 2008.

The D.C. Special Olympics will work closely with the Capitol Police and the Architect of the Capitol to make sure that the event is in full compliance with the rules and regulations governing the use of the Capitol grounds. The event will be free and open to the public. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 39 authorizes the use of the Capitol grounds for the District of Columbia's Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run to be held on June 5 of this year.

The Special Olympics is an internationally recognized organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children and adults with disabilities through athletic competition and through athletic events in general.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the largest grassroots effort that raises funds and awareness for the Special Olympics program, Mr. Speaker. The event in D.C. is one of the many law enforcement torch runs throughout the country and across 35 Nations leading up to the summer Special Olympics.

□ 1330

The Torch Run is a special event during which members of law enforcement run the "Flame of Hope" to the site of the local Special Olympics games.

Mr. Speaker, this event has become a regular occurrence on the Capitol Grounds. And this year's event will represent the 24th time it has occurred on these grounds. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this resolution along with the chairwoman of our Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management.

I support this resolution and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

If I may at this time, Mr. Speaker, if I might inquire of the gentlewoman from Maryland if she has any further speakers.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. I may have additional speakers, and I reserve the time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the time.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, the D.C. Special Olympics is a

really premier event in this region that highlights the athletic accomplishments of children and adults with disabilities. I would like to recognize and give special thanks to the tenacity of Eunice Kennedy Shriver and her family for exceptional work on behalf of persons with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, as a young person I volunteered with the Special Olympics each year. And I recognize the talents, training and athleticism of young people from around the country and even from my congressional district. And each year law enforcement officers around the world participate in the local Torch Run events to raise money and awareness for the Special Olympics. In fact in 2008, the Law Enforcement Torch Run raised over \$34 million for the Special Olympics. And here in the Washington, D.C. area, law enforcement officers who are part of the extensive volunteer network that support the games carry the "Flame of Hope" across the Capitol Grounds through the District of Columbia to Catholic University.

It is an amazing event. The event is scheduled of course to occur on June 5, 2009. And it will be open to the public and is free of charge on the Capitol Grounds. The games are a wonderful expression of inclusiveness and confirmation of individual contribution.

I enthusiastically support this resolution. And I thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for presenting the resolution to us and this very worthwhile endeavor of the Special Olympics.

I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. FLAKE. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I certainly support this resolution. The Special Olympics is a wonderful program. Certainly using Capitol Grounds is appropriate. Americans all over the country and certainly here revere this Capitol, as well we all should.

In a couple of minutes, we will be voting on a privileged resolution that I have offered. This is the third one. It is similar to the others that have been offered but it differs a little. It is a bit narrowed.

Right now, Mr. Speaker, as much as we revere this institution, there is a cloud hanging over it. And that cloud is that there are investigations going on right now at the Department of Justice investigating the relationship between earmarks and campaign contributions. And as long as that is occurring without this body doing anything, there will be a cloud hanging over this institution.

Now some may say as long as other bodies outside of Congress are investigating this issue, that Congress has no obligation to do so. I think that is wrong. We have an obligation to uphold the dignity and decorum of this body.

And we haven't been doing it very well. And as long as these investigations are swirling around us and we fail to act, then this cloud remains.

Some have mentioned that, in fact in one of the papers today, it referenced that this investigation is a Republican-led effort to embarrass the Democrats because the Democrats embarrassed Republicans beforehand. It is nothing of the sort. I did not consult with my party leadership before offering this resolution. I have not consulted with them during it. This is not a partisan resolution.

This is a bipartisan problem. The problem is that the perception is that earmarks are influencing campaign contributions and that campaign contributions are influencing earmarks. And there is really no other way to look at the situation but to draw that conclusion. That is why we need to vote on this resolution and allow the Ethics Committee to look into it.

Again this is not a partisan issue. This is a problem that afflicts both sides. I hope my colleagues see it that way. And we simply cannot allow this body to have the cloud hanging over it as it is right now.

And so I would encourage my colleagues, when it comes time to vote for this resolution, I'm sorry, vote against the tabling of the resolution, which would allow the Ethics Committee to look into it.

And I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. I have no further speakers at this time on this resolution.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, before I yield back, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Maryland for doing a great job in leading us through all the bills. She has done a wonderful job. I thank her for her leadership today.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would yield back.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I also thank the gentleman from Florida for his patience today.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 39, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

The District of Columbia Special Olympics is the premier event in this region that highlights the athletic accomplishments of children and young adults with disabilities. I'd like to recognize and give special thanks to the tenacity to Eunice Kennedy Shriver and her family for exceptional work on behalf of persons with disabilities.

Each year, law enforcement officers around the world participate in local Torch Run events to raise money and awareness for the Special Olympics. In 2008, the Law Enforcement Torch Runs raised over \$34 million for the Special Olympics.

In the Washington D.C. area, law enforcement officers, who are part of the extensive volunteer network that support the games, carry the "Flame of Hope" across the Capitol Grounds through the District of Columbia to Catholic University.

This event, scheduled to occur on June 5, 2009, will be open to the public and free of charge. The sponsors will work with the Capitol Police Board to ensure that all rules and regulations pertaining to the use of the Capitol Grounds are followed.

These games are a wonderful expression of inclusiveness and a confirmation of individual contribution. I enthusiastically support this resolution and the very worthwhile endeavor of the Special Olympics.

I urge my colleagues to join me in agreeing to H. Con. Res. 39.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 39.

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.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House and offer the resolution previously noticed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROSS). The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 228

Whereas The Hill reported on February 10, 2009, that "a top defense-lobbying firm" that "specializes in obtaining earmarks in the defense budget for a long list of clients" was "recently raided by the FBI.":

Whereas The Associated Press reported on February 25, 2009 that the "FBI searched the lobbying firm. . .and the residence of its founder. . .";

Whereas The Hill reported on March 4, 2009, that the firm "has given \$3.4 million to 284 Members of Congress";

Whereas Politico reported on February 13, 2009, that "federal investigators are asking about thousands of dollars in campaign contributions to lawmakers as part of an effort to determine whether they were illegal 'straw man' donations.":

Whereas Roll Call reported on February 20, 2009, that they have "located tens of thousands of dollars worth of [the raided firm]-linked donations that are improperly reported in the FEC database.":

Whereas Roll Call also reported that "tracking Federal Election Commission records of campaign donations attributed to [the firm] is a comedy of errors, misinformation and mysteries, providing more questions than answers about how much money the lobbying firm actually raised for Congressional campaigns.":

Whereas CQ Today reported on February 19, 2009, that "104 House members got earmarks for projects sought by [clients of the firm] in the 2008 defense appropriations bills," and that 87 percent of this bipartisan group of Members received campaign contributions from the raided firm;

Whereas The Hill reported on February 10, 2009, that in 2008 clients of this firm had "received \$299 million worth of earmarks, according to Taxpayers for Common Sense.":