

membership in the Las Vegas metropolitan area. Although gang violence is not unique to Las Vegas, violent crime is a problem that plagues most communities across this Nation.

As we continue to debate the appropriations bill for the Commerce, State, and Justice Departments, my hope is that we can all unite together to pass legislation that will improve the Federal response to combating violence in America. It is obvious to most Americans that putting more police on the street is just a beginning. We must encourage all segments of society to work together in implementing effective crime fighting strategies.

Additionally, we need to remove the bureaucratic red tape which discourages local law enforcement agencies from seeking Federal funding for their crime fighting programs.

I look forward to supporting an appropriations plan which will give State and local governments more control over how to best combat crime in their individual communities. We can win the battle against crime but we need to provide our communities with the power to fight crime.

CHINESE RELATIONS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, reports say the White House will support China over Taiwan, thus communism over democracy. Unbelievable. The reports say the White House will put tough conditions on it. Like what, Mr. Speaker? A waiting period on Chinese missile launches? A promise that China will not sell any of their stolen technology at missile shows? How about trigger locks on all those Chinese missiles?

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. These cerebral constipators have already given away the farm. Now they are starting to play with our freedom.

I yield back the fact that we built the Panama Canal and China now runs it.

REPUBLICAN CONGRESS WORKING TO PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, for 30 years Washington big spenders have raided the Social Security trust fund. They have put big government programs ahead of retirement security for hardworking Americans.

The Republican Congress has changed that. We put the Social Security surplus in a lockbox and we are not spending a dime of it. But the Democrat leadership just does not think

this is a good idea. They think we should wait and see if we can find any money in the budget before we meet our commitment to our Nation's workers and retirees.

That approach just does not cut it. The money is already there. So we Republicans are asking each Federal agency to trim waste, fraud and abuse. We will take one penny from each dollar in their budgets and let them decide how to get by without it. In other words, we will not cut a single program. Instead, we look to the bureaucracy to cut down on waste, fraud and abuse so we can strengthen retirement security for American workers.

LOCKBOX LEGISLATION HELD HOSTAGE

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was Halloween, another landmark along the trail of days since the House passed my Social Security lockbox protection bill. Since we passed this important bill on May 26, we have celebrated Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Columbus Day and now Halloween. Veterans Day is only 10 days from now and Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and Christmas are just around the corner. And all this time what has happened to the Social Security lockbox in the other body? Absolutely nothing. On six separate occasions, Democrats in the other body have voted to keep this vital bill from coming to the Senate floor for a vote.

Despite the stall on the lockbox bill, we will be successful this year in protecting Social Security and Medicare funds from the congressional big spenders. Stopping the raid was not easy. It will be a tough fight for years into the future unless the fight is made easier with the passage of the Social Security lockbox bill.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for seniors to stop counting holidays and to start counting on the money that should be set aside for their retirement needs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any recorded votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

FEMA AND CIVIL DEFENSE MONUMENT ACT

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 348) to authorize the construction of a monument to honor those who have served the Nation's civil defense and emergency management programs. The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 348

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY.

(a) GRANT OF AUTHORITY.—The United States National Civil Defense Monument Commission (in this Act referred to as the "Commission"), a private nonprofit organization organized under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania, is authorized to construct a Monument to honor those who have served the Nation's civil defense and emergency management programs.

(b) EXPIRATION.—The authority granted by this section shall expire 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, unless before the expiration of such 7-year period—

(1) the approvals required by sections 2(a) and (b) have been obtained; and

(2) the construction of the Monument has begun.

SEC. 2. SITE AND DESIGN.

(a) SITE.—Subject to the approval of the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Commission may select the site upon which the Monument will be constructed. Such site shall be on Federal land controlled by the Federal Emergency Management Agency at Emmitsburg, Maryland.

(b) DESIGN.—Subject to the approval of the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Commission may develop the design of the Monument.

SEC. 3. CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

The costs of constructing the Monument shall be paid out of contributions to the Commission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

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

I rise in support of H.R. 348, introduced by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT). The gentleman from Maryland worked hard on this bill which would help recognize those people who have served in this country's civil defense. Specifically, H.R. 348 would authorize the United States Civil Defense Monument Commission to construct a monument to honor those who have served in the Nation's civil defense and emergency management programs. This monument will be constructed on Federal land located in Emmitsburg, Maryland and administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The site and design of this monument will be subject to the approval of the Director of FEMA. All of the costs for the construction of the monument will be paid by the Commission.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 348.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the legislation, H.R. 348, introduced by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) authorizes a private, not-for-profit entity, the United States National Civil Defense Monument Commission, to construct a monument honoring those who have served in our Nation's civil defense and emergency management programs. Mr. Speaker, the civil servants this monument would honor are often overlooked until disasters such as Hurricanes Floyd and Dennis remind us all of the important role played by these dedicated people. A monument providing a more lasting recognition is clearly appropriate.

It is important to note that this monument would be funded through contributions to the Commission and built on land owned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The Commission, subject to the approval of the Director of FEMA, would be authorized to select the exact location and design of the monument.

As a general matter, we should consider each new proposal to construct a monument on Federal land very carefully, given the limited space available for further such constructions in areas such as the National Mall. In this case, however, the site of the FEMA Center in Maryland seems appropriate and the involvement of the FEMA director in approving the exact site and design will ensure that this proposed monument provides the men and women who have served in our national civil defense and emergency management programs the recognition they well deserve.

I would like to add that those of us who come from areas like Guam which experience natural disasters on a regular basis would also enthusiastically support this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 348.

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT), the author of this legislation.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the original sponsor of H.R. 348, the National Civil Defense/Emergency Management Act of 1999. This is a straightforward, non-partisan piece of legislation which will authorize the placement of a monument to honor those individuals, paid and volunteers alike, who have served our Nation in our most trying times, when disaster strikes.

Mr. Speaker, as we speak, FEMA employees and volunteers are working

around the clock to help the victims of Hurricane Floyd recover from widespread wind damage, beach erosion, and, most notably, flooding. FEMA teams are working tirelessly to deliver food, shelter, clothing and medical assistance to thousands of families up and down the East Coast. While this is the most recent disaster to strike the U.S., it surely will not be the last. It is our hope that this monument will be a permanent reminder to those who come to our rescue that we appreciate their service and dedication to duty.

The monument itself is a gift from the private, nonprofit National Civil Defense Monument Commission. I would like to commend the members of this commission, especially their Chairman, Alex Atzert, for their efforts to raise the necessary funds for this monument, which comes at no cost to taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, as set forth in this legislation, the design and site selection of the monument must be approved by the FEMA Director, currently James Witt, who has given this monument his blessing. I am proud to say that the monument will be placed on the grounds of the FEMA training facility in Emmitsburg, Maryland, in the Sixth Congressional District which I have the honor to represent.

Mr. Speaker, by passing H.R. 348, we can demonstrate our appreciation for those who have served our country at FEMA and Civil Defense.

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This small token of appreciation will help ensure that future generations recognize the hard work and dedication of former employees and volunteers who look favorably on this worthy endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 348, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on this issue, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 348.

The question was taken.

Mr. HANSEN. 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.

LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 2737) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Illinois certain Federal land associated with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to be used as an historic and interpretive site along the trail, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2737

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

SECTION 1. LAND CONVEYANCE, LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL, ILLINOIS.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Interior may convey, without consideration, to the State of Illinois all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of federally owned land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary consisting of approximately 39 acres located in the north half of section 16, township 4 north, range 9 west, Third Principal Meridian, Madison County, Illinois, within the corridor of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

(b) SURVEY; CONVEYANCE COSTS.—The exact acreage and legal description of the land to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. The cost of the survey and all other costs incurred by the Secretary to convey the land shall be borne by the State of Illinois.

(c) CONDITIONS OF CONVEYANCE.—

(1) USE OF CONVEYED LAND.—The conveyance authorized under subsection (a) shall be subject to the condition that the State of Illinois, acting through the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, use the conveyed land as an historic site and interpretive center for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

(2) PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF SITE.—The conveyance authorized under subsection (a) shall be subject to the further condition that the Governor of the State of Illinois develop, within two years after the date of the conveyance, a plan for the development and operation of the historic site and interpretive center proposed for the conveyed land. In developing the plan, the Governor shall provide an opportunity for review and comment by the Secretary and the public.

(d) DISCONTINUANCE OF USE.—If the State of Illinois determines to discontinue use of the land conveyed under subsection (a) as an historic site and interpretive center for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, the State of Illinois shall convey the lands back to the Secretary without consideration.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2737, as amended.