

the kind of thing that we do in our everyday life, to return individuals with disability to function.

The American Occupational Therapy Association has a motto that expresses it so very well. "Occupational Therapy: Skills for the Job of Living."

In Texas and across the Nation, we recently recognized contributions of this important profession with an official designation of Occupational Therapy Month. Our therapists help those whose lives are dramatically impacted by injury or stroke. They help people return to work and resume their place in the community. They work in the aid and development of children. They assist parents in developing and improving the skills necessary to participate in school, work, play, or leisure activities.

My wife, Libby, has had an opportunity to see firsthand the incredible work that our occupational therapists perform to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. I join in recognizing the significant benefits of occupational therapy for Americans from childhood to old age and salute the efforts of our occupational therapists across the country.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MAY
24, 1999

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn next for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BORDER
PATROL RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION
ACT OF 1999

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise with my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SILVESTRE REYES), to stand up for the men and women who guard our Nation's borders and risk their lives every day.

Today, with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), I will introduce the Border Patrol Recruitment and Retention Act of 1999. The legislation will provide incentives and support for recruiting and retaining Border Patrol agents. This legislation would increase the compensation of Border Patrol agents, and allow the Border Patrol agency to recruit its own agents without relying on personnel officers of the Department of Justice or the INS.

The United States is in dire need of more Border Patrol agents to enforce policies against illegal immigration and drug smuggling. Under current law, the INS is authorized to add a total of 5,000 additional border agents at a rate of 1,000 per fiscal year from 1997 to 2001.

We have not met our goals. The INS has only recruited between 200 and 400 new agents because salaries and the recruitment skills have not been up to par.

My legislation will increase the salaries and work harder at retention, and salute those men and women who serve us very ably at the border. It is time now to give more respect to our border agents.

Madam Speaker, I rise to the floor of the House today to stand up for a group of men and women who guard our nation's borders and risk their very lives everyday. The group of men and women whom I am referring to are the United States Border Patrol. Today, along with my colleague from Texas, Mr. REYES, I introduce the "Border Patrol Recruitment and Retention Act of 1999."

This legislation will provide incentives and support for recruiting and retaining Border Patrol agents. This legislation would increase the compensation for Border Patrol agents and allow the Border Patrol agency to recruit its own agents without relying on personnel officers of the Department of Justice or INS.

The United States is in dire need of more Border Patrol agents to enforce policies against illegal immigration and drug smuggling. Under current law, the INS is authorized to add a total of five thousand additional border patrol agents, at a rate of five thousand additional border patrol agents, at a rate of one thousand per fiscal year from 1997 to 2001. However, INS did not request any additional agents in its FY 2000 budget due in large part to the lucrative job market and the low unemployment rate.

According to Commissioner Meissner of the INS, only 200 to 400 new agents will be hired this year. Arizona had been slated to receive approximately 400 of the full complement but will not likely receive between 100–150, and my home state of Texas, which would have received approximately 500 new agents this year, could see that number cut by more than half.

The "Border Patrol Recruitment and Retention Enhancement Act" would move Border Patrol agents with one year's agency experience from the federal government's GS–9 pay level (approximately \$34,000 annually) to GS–11 (approximately \$41,000 annually) next year. We need better recruitment and better

retention. We cannot play with the nation's borders, and right now in the Immigration and Claims subcommittee in which I am a Ranking Member, we listen to testimony hearing after hearing about how the Border Patrol agents need more money, and the INS needs to be given the resources to be able to do it. This legislation is the step in that direction.

Madam Speaker, we are a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws. The "Border Patrol Recruitment and Retention Act of 1999," will give us the ability to control our borders and uphold the law. I urge my colleagues to join me and Mr. REYES, who is our resident expert on Border Patrol matters due to his service as a Border Patrol Sector Chief to support this much needed measure.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

REGARDING LATEST SHOOTING IN
ATLANTA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTERT. Madam Speaker, the latest shooting in an Atlanta school is deeply troubling. My wife is a teacher in a public school. My kids have gone to a public school. I taught for a lot of years in a public school.

I fervently believe that every child deserves to learn in a good school and in a safe environment. But how can we create such an environment if it is the children themselves who make the schools unsafe?

Clearly, we need to tighten current laws to make it more difficult for kids to get guns. We will take a look at the measure passed by the Senate to make sure that it is a reasonable and common sense approach.

We also need to more effectively enforce the laws that are already on the books and to prosecute those who break the laws. But these measures will fall short if we do not effectively address the deeper problems that face our society and our children.

Our children need to learn the differences between right and wrong. They need moral instruction. They need a culture that reinforces positive values that help create a safer and more secure society.

It is more difficult to be a parent today. We feel the need to work harder just to keep pace with the neighbors. All too often, parents are forced to worry first about their jobs and then about their kids. And it is becoming more and more difficult for parents to monitor what their kids are watching, hearing, and learning.

I support free expression, but there is a point where unbridled free expression