

here tomorrow so that every time we get a, well-we-have-to-check-with-upstairs response from the gentleman, we can get that response from the boys upstairs. We keep being told those issues are being kicked upstairs into different rooms, but we cannot find who is in those rooms.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
OCTOBER 23, 2000

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida? There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 24, 2000

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, October 23, 2000, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 24, 2000, for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. 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 Florida?

There was no objection.

KRISTEN'S ACT

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2780) to authorize the Attorney General to provide grants for organizations to find missing adults.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2780

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as "Kristen's Act".

SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF ORGANIZATIONS TO FIND MISSING ADULTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may make grants to public agencies or non-profit private organizations, or combinations thereof, for programs—

(1) to assist law enforcement and families in locating missing adults;

(2) to maintain a national, interconnected database for the purpose of tracking missing

adults who are determined by law enforcement to be endangered due to age, diminished mental capacity, or the circumstances of disappearance, when foul play is suspected or circumstances are unknown;

(3) to maintain statistical information of adults reported as missing;

(4) to provide informational resources and referrals to families of missing adults;

(5) to assist in public notification and victim advocacy related to missing adults; and

(6) to establish and maintain a national clearinghouse for missing adults.

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General may make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$1,000,000 each year for fiscal years 2001 through 2004.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2780, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2780, Kristen's Act, which was introduced by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK). Each year about 1 million people are reported missing in the United States and about 42 percent of those are adults. The many Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies across the country dutifully enter these missing person reports in the FBI's national missing persons database and most of them are quickly found within a day or two. Still, many children and adults are not found right away and that is one reason Congress acted to create the Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

The Center acts as a clearinghouse for missing child cases and provides much needed support to families whose children are missing. The Center has helped locate thousands of missing children and reunited them with their families. Unfortunately, there is no such clearinghouse for missing adults. Once the names of these missing adults are entered into the FBI's National Crime Information Center computer, there is little else the families can do but wait and hope that their loved ones will be found.

Kristen's Act would establish the first national clearinghouse for missing adults. It would authorize grants to States to, one, assist law enforcement

and families in locating missing adults; two, create a national database for the purpose of tracking missing adults who are determined by law enforcement to be in danger due to age, mental capacity or the circumstances of their disappearance; three, maintain statistics on missing adults; four, provide informational resources and referrals to families of missing adults; and five, assist in public notification and victim advocacy on this issue.

Congress can and should do more to help families locate their missing adult relatives. Kristen's Act would provide an infrastructure that will supplement the existing FBI missing persons database and help State and local law enforcement agencies work with families to help to locate their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) for her outstanding leadership on this issue and I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2780, also known as Kristen's Act. H.R. 2780 authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to public agencies or non-profit private organizations to maintain a national database for tracking missing adults determined to be in danger due to age, diminished mental capacity, when foul play may be involved or when the circumstances of the disappearance are unknown.

It also authorizes grants to assist law enforcement and families in locating missing adults; provide informational resources to families of missing adults and for other related purposes. The bill authorizes \$1 million each year for fiscal years 2001 through 2004 to carry out the purposes of this legislation. The bill is named after Kristen Moderfferri of Charlotte, North Carolina, who at age 18 disappeared after leaving her job one day. Sadly, because she was just 18 her family could not benefit from the great work of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

H.R. 2780 is designed to assist law enforcement and families of missing persons for those over the age of 17 in a manner similar to that provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Although we have not had hearings on this bill and I generally do not support consideration of legislation without hearings, I am familiar with the valuable services provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for which we have had hearings and support similar efforts for missing adults who are in danger due to age, diminished capacity or foul play. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to vote for the bill.

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