

Our resolution also urges President Bush to continue to focus national attention on reducing crime, and to issue a proclamation in support of National Night Out, which is such an important national event.

National Night Out brings communities together. And when we come together with our neighbors, our community leaders, our families—our unity leaves no room for crime. It is a testament to what we can do together—and I am proud to see the House pass this resolution in support of such an important program.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 193

Whereas neighborhood crime is of continuing concern to the American people;

Whereas the fight against neighborhood crime requires people to work together in cooperation with law enforcement officials;

Whereas neighborhood crime watch organizations are effective at promoting awareness about, and the participation of volunteers in, crime prevention activities at the local level;

Whereas neighborhood crime watch groups can contribute to the Nation's war on drugs by helping to prevent their communities from becoming markets for drug dealers;

Whereas crime and violence in schools is of continuing concern to the American people due to the recent high-profile incidents that have resulted in fatalities at several schools across the United States;

Whereas community-based programs involving law enforcement, school administrators, teachers, parents, and local communities work effectively to reduce school violence and crime;

Whereas citizens across the United States will soon take part in "National Night Out", a unique crime prevention event which will demonstrate the importance and effectiveness of community participation in crime prevention efforts by having people spend the period from 7 to 10 o'clock p.m. on August 7, 2001, with their neighbors in front of their homes with their lights on; and

Whereas schools that turn their lights on from 7 to 10 o'clock p.m. on August 7, 2001, will send a positive message to the participants of "National Night Out" and show their commitment to reduce crime and violence in schools: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideas of "National Night Out"; and

(2) requests that the President—

(A) issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for "National Night Out"; and

(B) focus appropriate attention on the issues of neighborhood crime prevention, community policing, and reduction of school crime by delivering speeches, convening meetings, and directing his Administration to make reducing crime an important priority.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF RON SANDER, WELCOMING THE RELEASE FROM CAPTIVITY OF ARNIE ALFORD, STEVE DERRY, JASON WEBER, AND DAVID BRADLEY, AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO COMBAT SUCH TERRORISM

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 89) mourning the death of Ron Sander at the hands of terrorist kidnapers in Ecuador and welcoming the release from captivity of Arnie Alford, Steve Derry, Jason Weber, and David Bradley, and supporting efforts by the United States to combat such terrorism, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER), the manager of the bill.

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on October 12, 2000, 10 men, including five Americans, were abducted from an Ecuadorean oil field. On January 31, 2001, Ron Sander of Sunrise Beach, Missouri, was brutally murdered by his captors.

The hostages spent 141 days in captivity and endured malnutrition, isolation, and physical and mental abuse.

On June 23, 2001, Colombian National Police General Jose Leonardo Gallego's anti-kidnapping unit, working with the U.S. authorities, arrested 59 people, including eight men accused of abducting the 10 oil field workers in Ecuador. We thank General Gallego for his good work in bringing these criminals to justice.

Please join me in supporting this resolution expressing condolences to the family of Ron Sander and welcoming the release of the American captives back home.

Mr. WELDON of Oregon. Continuing to reserve my right to object, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to commend the gentleman for introducing this resolution mourning the death of Mr. Ron Sander of Sunrise Beach, Missouri, and welcoming the other victims of this kidnapping incident home from South America.

Ron Sander was one of 10 people who were seized by terrorists last October while they were working for an oil company in Ecuador. In what can only be termed a tragedy, Sander was found murdered in late January, shot five times in the back by his captors.

While it appears to be clear that those who kidnapped Ron Sander and nine other were merely part of a gang of criminals, the act of kidnapping is fast becoming a tool which is employed by those violent actors who are involved in the Colombian civil war, and increasingly, in the countries which neighbor Colombia.

The oil-rich areas of Ecuador attract many American companies and other firms that employ Americans. It is my hope that we in the Congress can help to find a peaceful resolution to the conflicts of the region and can thereby hope to lessen the possibility that Americans would be kidnapped in a cowardly act of violence not unlike the one that took the life of Ronald Sander.

My heart goes out to the families of all the kidnapping victims who waited for their loved ones' safe return; but most of all, I want to express my deepest sympathy to Mr. Sander's family.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, continuing to reserve my right to object, I am pleased to have this opportunity to address what I believe is one of the most outrageous acts committed against American citizens abroad in recent years, the kidnapping of five American citizens working in Ecuador by a band of ruthless terrorists.

On October 12, 2000, a number of international oil workers were abducted from an oil field in northern Ecuador by a heavily armed group of terrorists. Mr. Speaker, "terrorists" may be too generous a word to describe these thugs, for they were motivated not by ideology but by naked greed. Their intention was to ransom their captives, plain and simple.

Among the hostages taken were five American citizens, Arnie Alford, Steve Derry, Jason Weber of Gold Hill, Oregon, in my congressional district, David Bradley of Casper, Wyoming, and Ron Sander of Sunrise Beach, Missouri.

The nightmare that began for these men on October 12 would ultimately last 141 days, 4½ months of deprivation and hardship such as we can scarcely contemplate. These men endured inhumane treatment day after day at the hands of their captors. They suffered from prolonged malnutrition, isolation from loved ones, and relentless physical and mental abuse.

Each day was spent marching at gunpoint through the unforgiving jungles of South America, and each night was spent tied up in the terrorists' camps. The diet that sustained the men was as cruel as their surroundings: small portions of rice and occasionally the meat of rodents. The perseverance shown by these brave Americans in the face of such unremitting adversity is a testament to the human spirit.

Mr. Speaker, the fear of death hung over the heads of these hostages every day of their ordeal. Sadly, on January 31 of 2001, that fear became a reality

when one of the hostages, Ron Sander, was murdered by his kidnapers. His body was discovered riddled with bullets, a brutal act intended to encourage the employers of the hostages to meet the kidnapers' demand.

Finally, the nightmare came to an end when the hostages were released from their captivity and handed over to Ecuadorian military authorities.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this resolution first and foremost is to welcome the safe return of our fellow citizens and to mourn the death of Ron Sander, an innocent victim of the greed and malice of cowards.

The resolution also recognizes the cooperation of the Ecuadorian authorities who provided invaluable assistance in negotiating the safe return of the hostages.

It further acknowledges the employers of the victims, Erickson Air-Crane, Schlumberger Ltd., and Helmerich & Payne, whose commitment to their employees during this ordeal was absolute and unwavering.

Finally, House Concurrent Resolution 89 reiterates the United States' commitment to securing justice for the victims of this crime and holding the terrorists accountable for their actions.

It also expresses the sense of Congress that the United States must redouble its efforts to prevent future kidnappings and eliminate the threat represented by international terrorist organizations.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to add that I could not be more pleased at the arrest of a number of suspects in this case by the Colombia National Police on June 23. Working in concert with U.S. authorities, the Colombia police arrested 59 people, including eight men accused of participating in this October kidnapping.

It is my profound hope that if these men are in fact guilty of this hideous crime, that they will receive swift and severe punishment that they so richly deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Committee on International Relations for moving on this resolution with such great haste, and I appreciate the time of the House to share this.

I withdraw my reservation of objection, Mr. Speaker.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 89

Whereas Ron Sander of Sunrise Beach, Missouri, one of ten men abducted from an Ecuadorian oil field on October 12, 2000, was brutally murdered by his terrorist captors on January 31, 2001;

Whereas Arnie Alford, Steve Derry, and Jason Weber, of Gold Hill, Oregon, and David Bradley, of Casper, Wyoming, were also among the ten men abducted;

Whereas the kidnapped men endured inhuman treatment at the hands of their captors, suffering from malnutrition, isolation, and physical and mental abuse;

Whereas the hostages spent 141 days in captivity before being released to Ecuadorian military authorities;

Whereas the Government of Ecuador provided invaluable assistance in seeking the safe return of the hostages; and

Whereas the employers of the hostages, Erickson Air-Crane, Schlumberger Ltd., and Helmerich & Payne, maintained a tireless commitment to their employees and their families during protracted negotiations with the terrorists: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the Congress welcomes the safe return of American citizens Arnie Alford, Steve Derry, Jason Weber, and David Bradley from captivity by terrorists in Ecuador and congratulates them for their perseverance in the face of persistent and unremitting adversity;

(2) the Congress extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Ron Sander, who was killed by terrorists in Ecuador, and salutes his steadfast courage under the most difficult of circumstances;

(3) the Congress supports the commitment of the United States to bringing the killers of Ron Sanders and the kidnapers of Arnie Alford, Steve Derry, Jason Weber, and David Bradley to justice; and

(4) it is the sense of the Congress that the United States must redouble its efforts to prevent future kidnappings by working in concert with foreign governments to neutralize the threat represented by terrorist groups who perpetrate such crimes.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 2300

#### APPALACHIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2501) to reauthorize the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEREUTER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio, the chairman of the subcommittee, for an explanation of the bill.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding to me.

H.R. 2501 authorizes the Appalachian Regional Commission for fiscal years 2002 through 2006. The bill also requires the ARC to target at least half of ARC project funds to distressed areas and counties, creates a council to coordinate Federal economic development assistance in the region, provides affordable access to technology and telecommunications through a new program initiative, and lowers the administrative cost share for Local Develop-

ment Districts that include a distressed county.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO); the ranking member of our full committee, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR); the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), for their diligent attention to this very important program, and two Members of our subcommittee to whom this program is critical, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), a valuable new member of the subcommittee, who worked tirelessly to assist us in this reauthorization.

I support the bill and thank the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. COSTELLO. Further reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), for his leadership regarding the reauthorization of the Appalachian Regional Commission. The subcommittee hearing was very enlightening and provided essential information for the public record. I commend Jesse White and his excellent staff for working with us to shape a fair bipartisan bill. This is a good bill and it deserves our support.

Continuing my reservation of objection, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the ranking member of the full committee, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR).

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has devoted a significant amount of time to reviewing and evaluating the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and its programs. In 1997, the Economic Development Subcommittee held a series of hearings regarding not only the ARC but also the Economic Development Administration, and in 1998, both agencies were reauthorized with broad bipartisan support.

The ARC received overwhelming bipartisan support for one self-evident reason—ARC programs WORK. These essential programs have significantly boosted employment, population growth, and income throughout the region. Despite more than 35 years of effort, we are only halfway home—the region has not yet pulled itself up to the national average. Of ARC's 406 counties, 118 counties remain severely economically distressed. One hundred years of decline cannot be overcome in only 35 years. Much work remains to be done, and new initiatives need to be considered, not only to maintain the existing economic foothold in the region, but also to help it prepare for the new economy.

H.R. 2501 is certainly another step in the right direction for the people of Appalachia. The bill authorizes the ARC for five years, it establishes a coordinating council to address Federal agency program delivery for the region, and it increases funding consistent with