

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that Patricia Stonesifer will bring the right mix of philanthropic and business experience to the Smithsonian Institution. I urge the House to support her appointment.

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution, S.J. Res. 26.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EHLERS. 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 Senate Joint Resolution 26.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO SECURITY AT THE CAPITOL

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 309) honoring the United States Capitol Police for their commitment to security at the Capitol.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 309

Whereas the Capitol is an important symbol of freedom and democracy across the United States and throughout the world, and those who safeguard the Capitol safeguard that freedom and democracy;

Whereas millions of people visit the Capitol each year to observe and learn the workings of the democratic process;

Whereas the United States Capitol Police force was created by Congress in 1828 to provide security for the Capitol;

Whereas today the United States Capitol Police provide protection and support services throughout an array of congressional buildings, parks, and thoroughfares;

Whereas the United States Capitol Police provide security for Members of Congress, their staffs, other government employees, and many others who live near, work on, and visit Capitol Hill;

Whereas the United States Capitol Police have successfully managed and coordinated major demonstrations, joint sessions of Congress, State of the Union Addresses, State funerals, and inaugurations;

Whereas the United States Capitol Police have bravely faced numerous emergencies, including three bombings and two shootings, one of which, in 1998, tragically took the lives of Private First Class Jacob "J.J."

Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson;

Whereas the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, have created a uniquely difficult environment for the United States Capitol Police;

Whereas the United States Capitol Police responded to this challenge quickly and courageously, including by facilitating the evacuation of all of the buildings under their purview, as well as the perimeter thereof; and

Whereas the United States Capitol Police have instituted longer shifts, requiring that officers work substantial overtime each week to ensure the continued protection of the Capitol: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors and thanks the United States Capitol Police for their outstanding work and dedication during a period of heightened security that began on September 11, 2001.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise here today with my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS), for consideration of H. Res. 309, a resolution honoring the United States Capitol Police for their commitment to the security of the Capitol, the public and the employees and Members of Congress. Their unwavering dedication to protect and serve shall not go unnoticed.

Congress created the United States Capitol Police force in 1828 to provide security for the Capitol. Since inception of the Capitol Police, their officers have courageously and successfully protected the Capitol, and the people and buildings that surround this symbol of freedom and democracy. The U.S. Capitol, which is simultaneously a national shrine, a tourist attraction and a working office building, imposes challenging security requirements.

Since the September 11 tragedy, the Capitol Police have been placed under a tremendous strain to implement the increasing number of important security enhancements that have been instituted. Working 6 or 7 days straight with 12 hour shifts, the United States Capitol Police deserve a great "thank you."

In addition, when the House of Representatives relocated to the General Accounting Office, the Capitol Police protected us there as well. We know this was not an easy task, and we truly appreciate their service.

Mr. Speaker, their valor has not come easily. The United States Capitol Police have faced several emergencies, three bombings and two shootings, one of which took the lives of Private First Class Jacob "JJ" Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson. I want to extend our appreciation of their commitment to protect and serve this institution.

Last year more than 2 million tourists visited the Capitol complex, which is comprised of 19 buildings. At the same time, the Capitol hosted more than 1,200 American and foreign dignitaries and 1,000 special events and was the site of nearly 500 scheduled demonstrations. In addition to lawmakers and their staffs, a sizable number of journalists, lobbyists and service personnel also work within the Capitol complex.

Achieving a secure environment for the Capitol complex, while still maintaining an atmosphere of openness, has become increasingly challenging in recent years. Both the potential threats to the Capitol and the number of people entering the area every day have grown dramatically. The men and women of the United States Capitol Police risk their lives every day for the safeguarding of the Capitol.

Again, our thanks go out to you, our officers, our protectors and our friends.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), the sponsor of the resolution.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 309, legislation which I introduced to honor the United States Capitol Police. I would like to thank our lead Republican cosponsor, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), and also the leadership in both parties, for bringing this important resolution to the House floor today.

The terrorist attacks of September 11 have created a uniquely difficult environment for the Capitol Police. New security measures have been implemented, requiring the police to work longer hours, sometimes 12 hours and longer a day, oftentimes 6 days a week.

The Capitol Police have had to go even further above and beyond the call of duty to protect Members of Congress, staff and many of our visitors. The Capitol Police have responded to the new security challenges on Capitol Hill, including the attacks on September 11 and the anthrax attacks, quickly and courageously. They have continued their fine tradition of serving the Capitol Hill community.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to have the opportunity to thank our Capitol Police for the tremendous job that they do every day, and especially since September 11. They truly are heroes, and we salute them today.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. I would like to commend