

to an officer, it doesn't last forever. The technology increases and they wear out.

This is a critically important program. At a time when all of America wonders whether what's happening in Washington really works on Main Street and in the real world, this is a program that we can point to with absolute certainty that has conclusive, positive benefit. It saves the lives of our police officers.

This is something that works. This is something that Main Street understands. This is something that law enforcement understands, and this is one of those programs where we can do the right thing and continue it.

When an officer is sworn in and receives their badge and their gun, they should be receiving a vest. All across America people get up every morning and don't expect to have a problem, but if that problem occurs and they need that thin blue line, they expect our law enforcement to respond as quickly as they can, and part of that response for law enforcement ought to be the protection that a vest provides. It's the least that we can do.

I strongly support this bill. I thank Mr. VISCLOSKY, I thank Mr. CONYERS, I thank Mr. SMITH of Texas, and all those who are responsible for having this move to the floor today.

Mr. CONYERS. We yield back our time.

Mr. CANNON of Utah. Madam Speaker, I wanted to just thank Mr. VISCLOSKY and also Mr. LOBIONDO who suffered tragic losses and resulted in very important protection for my police and police around the country.

Ms. LORETTA T. SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6045, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2008.

Bulletproof vests and body armor have saved thousands of law enforcement officers since the introduction and improvement of bulletproof material.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program provides our brave law enforcement officers with the vital equipment they need to save lives in the line of fire.

This grant program was created in 1999 by the Department of Justice to provide protection to state, local and tribal law enforcement officers by assisting officers in purchasing the protective equipment they need.

Since its inception, the grant program has purchased more than 1.5 million bulletproof vests for over 40,000 jurisdictions in the United States. In 2007 alone, the program provided \$28.6 million to state and local law enforcement agencies across America and purchased over 180,000 new bulletproof vests.

In my district, this grant program has awarded more than \$45,000 to law enforcement officials in the cities of Anaheim and Santa Ana. As a result, these cities were able to purchase more than 400 vests for their officers.

I am pleased that the House of Representatives is acting to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program for another three years.

Brave law enforcement officers risk their lives on a daily basis to protect our communities, and this grant program ensures that their communities can help protect them.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, as a proud cosponsor of this bill I urge its approval by the House.

The bill will extend through fiscal year 2012 the highly successful grant program for armor vests for law enforcement officers.

The program was originally established in 1998 through enactment of legislation sponsored by Colorado's Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. Since then, over 11,900 jurisdictions have participated in the program, with \$173 million in Federal funds committed to support the purchase of an estimated 450,000 vests.

For example, in fiscal year 2007, 60 separate jurisdictions in Colorado received more than \$352,000 to assist with the purchase of 1,883 vests.

And while of course the most vests were purchased by the largest law enforcement agencies—570 by the city and county of Denver, 344 by the State of Colorado, 131 by Adams County and 45 by El Paso County—the program also assisted many smaller agencies as well, including those in Hinsdale County, Moffat County, Federal Heights, Glenwood Springs, and Durango.

Police officers from across our State have told me the program has been a great success, improving the safety and security of American law enforcement officers and better enabling them to do their job. And while President Bush's budgets have repeatedly neglected to request the full funding authorized for the program, Congress has stepped up and recognized its importance and appropriated the funds needed to keep it strong.

Bulletproof vests are expensive but essential. No officer should be without one and they should be basic equipment made available to officers when we ask them to perform dangerous jobs. If we can afford to pay for training and equipment for Iraqi police—and we indeed are paying for that—I think we can afford to help pay for bulletproof vests for the officers who protect Americans here at home.

So, Madam Speaker, I urge approval of this bill, to renew and extend the authorization for this very important program.

Mr. CANNON. 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. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6045.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 34 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1205

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN) at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD GRANT A POSTHUMOUS PARDON TO JOHN ARTHUR "JACK" JOHNSON

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 214) expressing the sense of Congress that the President should grant a posthumous pardon to John Arthur "Jack" Johnson for the 1913 racially motivated conviction of Johnson, which diminished his athletic, cultural, and historic significance, and tarnished his reputation.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 214

Whereas John Arthur "Jack" Johnson was a flamboyant, defiant, and controversial figure in American history who challenged racial biases;

Whereas Jack Johnson was born in Galveston, Texas, in 1878 to parents who were former slaves;

Whereas Jack Johnson was a professional boxer who traveled throughout the United States and the world, fighting both Black and White heavyweight boxers;

Whereas in 1908, after being denied the opportunity to fight two White boxing champions on purely racial grounds, Jack Johnson was granted an opportunity by an Australian promoter to fight Tommy Burns, the reigning world heavyweight champion;

Whereas Jack Johnson defeated Burns to become the first African American to hold the title of world heavyweight champion;

Whereas the victory of Jack Johnson over Burns prompted the search for a White boxer who could beat him, a recruitment effort dubbed the search for the "Great White Hope";

Whereas in Reno, Nevada, in 1910, in what was referred to by many as the "Battle of the Century", a White former heavyweight champion named James "Jim" Jeffries came back from retirement to fight, and lose to, Jack Johnson;

Whereas the defeat of Jeffries by Jack Johnson sparked rioting and aggression toward African Americans and led to racially motivated murders of African Americans nationwide;

Whereas the resentment felt toward Jack Johnson by many Whites was compounded by his relationships with White women;