

who have died and for those who are still missing, we pause to reflect and hopefully to learn.

For us, the living, the beneficiaries of their sacrifices, the responsibility rests in our hands. History teaches us that those who were willing to give their lives for freedom and democracy, do so for a cause more important than life.

We are proud of those who have served our Nation. Today we remember so that future generations will never forget.

THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN
OF VOLUNTOWN, CT

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 275th anniversary of Voluntown, CT. Like so many communities across eastern Connecticut, Voluntown has a proud history which spans nearly three centuries.

In 1698, Lt. Thomas Leffingwell of Norwich and Sgt. John Frink of Stonington petitioned the assembly in New Haven for a plantation for the volunteer settlers who carved a community out of the forbidding wilderness of remote eastern Connecticut. Several years later the assembly approved the petition. The petition reads in part:

Granted unto the inhabitants of Voluntown the power and privilege of choosing their own town officers and carrying on their own town affairs, as other towns in this Colony by law impowered to do so. All volunteer rights or lots in number of acres, within the original grants are hereby taxed at eight shillings per year for five years, for the support of a minister and building a meeting house in said town. The committee for the proprietors of the old Voluntown are hereby impowered to act jointly in settling a ministers salary.

I am proud to fly a flag over the Capitol to mark this special occasion. The residents of Voluntown are rightfully proud on this landmark anniversary.

WE ACTUALLY BUILD BRIDGES
TOO . . .

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues a thoughtful article on regulatory issues affecting small business written by Mr. Tom McCrackin, a constituent of mine from St. Louis, Missouri:

I recently received a letter from Rep. Jim Talent (R-Mo.), asking if I wanted to testify before the House Small Business Committee's Subcommittee on Regulation and Paperwork.

The purpose of the hearing was to discuss regulatory issues of concern to business owners, testify about the burdens of government and tell Congress what specific regulations should be repealed.

In trying to decide if I had anything worth testifying about, I did a little research. By

signing the contract and bond for our Route 47 Warren County Project, I agreed to:

1. be governed by the following 15 acts:
Clean water;
Endangered Species Act;
National Historic Preservation Act;
Farmland Protection Act;
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Recovery Act;
Work Hours Act of 1962;
Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987;
Public Works Employment Act of 1977;
Federal-Aid Roads Act;
Clean Air Act;
Federal Water Pollution Control Act;
Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act;
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;
Copeland Act; and
Davis-Bacon Act.

2. abide by 16 sections in six titles of the Code of Federal Regulations;

3. be bound by three Executive Orders (11246, 11738, & 12549);

4. obey nine sections in six titles of the United States Code;

5. fill out Standard Form LLL (Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying) and Form PR-1391 (Federal Aid Highway Construction Contractors Annual EEO Report) and Form WH-347 (Certified Payroll);

6. comply with provisions of OSHA, Equal Employment Opportunity, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, Unmarked Human Burial Sites, Missouri Solid Waste Management, Nationwide Permit (NWP) No. 26, Section 404 Permit, NWP No. 4, Standard Grading Rules for West Coast Lumber, Hometown Plan, Non-Discrimination in Employment, Missouri Seed Law, Workman's Compensation Insurance, General Wage Order No. 38, and prevailing wage, community block grant development programs and other public laws and revised statutes of Missouri; and

7. deal with and meet the requirements of the following 12 agencies:

National Register of Historic Places;
State Historic Preservation Office;
United States Fish and Wildlife Service;
National Marine Fisheries Service;
United States Army Corps of Engineers;
Office of Federal Contract Compliance,
United States Department of Labor;
Federal Highway Administration;
Occupational Safety and Health Administration;
Wage and Hour Division, Employment Standards Administration;
Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Division of Labor Standards;
Employment and Training Administration, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, United States Department of Labor; and
Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

I'll let you know how my testimony goes. All I really wanted to do was build the bridge.

CHURCH ARSON PREVENTION ACT
OF 1996

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996," legislation which will give Federal authorities the tools necessary to prosecute and bring to justice people who burn, desecrate, or otherwise damage religious property. I am pleased that the Committee's Ranking Mem-

ber, JOHN CONYERS, is joining in sponsoring this bill.

The arson of a place of worship is repulsive to us as a society. When the fire is motivated by racial hatred, it is even more reprehensible. There is no crime that should be more vigorously investigated, and the perpetrators more vigorously prosecuted, than this.

Earlier this week, on May 21, 1996, the Committee on the Judiciary held hearings on the very troubling increase in church burnings, and particularly those occurring in the southeastern United States. Since October 1991 there have been 110 incidents of church arson reported to Federal authorities; 33 of these occurred in the first five months of 1996. The victims of these crimes are not confined to a particular religious group—the burnings include synagogues, mosques, and church congregations both African-American and Caucasian. But, of the 51 fires reported since January 1995, more than half involve African-American congregations.

Although Federal authorities have been somewhat successful in prosecuting these cases, the Federal statutes which grant jurisdiction over fires and acts of vandalism at houses of worship make it difficult to bring Federal cases if the culprits are acting alone. My bill will eliminate these impediments, thereby giving the Attorney General an effective weapon with which to fight these heinous crimes. The bill amends section 247 of Title 18, United States Code, which makes it a crime to damage religious property or to obstruct persons in the free exercise of religious beliefs, by requiring only that the offense "is in or affects interstate or foreign commerce." In using this formulation, Congress will be granting jurisdiction over all conduct which may be reached under the interstate commerce clause of the Constitution. The parameters of this jurisdiction are left to the Courts to define, in accordance with Constitutional principles.

In addition, the Hyde bill decreases the dollar value of destruction which must occur in order to prosecute a crime under section 247. Current law requires that the loss from the defacement, damage or destruction involved be more than \$10,000. This means that when the damage from a fire is minimal, or when hate is expressed, not through fire but through desecration of defacement of houses of worship, 18 U.S.C. 247 is not an available source of jurisdiction. My bill reduces the dollar requirement to \$5,000, an amount which will allow Federal prosecution of more cases, while ensuring that the Federal government is not becoming involved in cases that because of their de minimus effect, are best left to State authorities.

I dare say that we in Congress are unanimous in our condemnation of those who would express their hatred by destroying or damaging religious property. While we may not be able to legislate this problem away, we can ensure that those who commit these crimes are swiftly and firmly punished. I invite my colleagues to join me in this goal by co-sponsoring the "Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996." Should you wish to do so, or should you need further information, please contact me or Judiciary Committee counsel Diana Schacht, at extension 53951.