

deportation centers. These National Guard flights made sense as a tool in our arsenal against drugs and those who would engage in their possession, use or distribution, as well as serving the Guard's training needs and requirements.

However; these effective and cost efficient National Guard flights were I am informed, ended several years ago because there was questions raised about the legal authority for the National Guard to engage in this activity, only indirectly drug related.

My bill, which I introduce today, makes the local National Guard's authority clear in this area; if it desires to promote its training and antinarcotics function and role in this fashion as part of its antidrug plans, it may clearly do so. It also limits those cases where the National Guard may assist the INS in transporting aliens to those criminal aliens, who have violated a Federal or State law prohibiting or regulating the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance.

It is a reasonable use of the National Guard's air assets, pilots, and personnel incidental to training by the Guard. It also serves our national interests in the battle against drugs. As we well know, drugs and those involved in the deadly trade in these poisons, cost our society more than \$67 billion annually, and threaten our cities, schools, youth, and future generations.

The bill is simply authority for those local National Guard units that want to engage in assisting INS to transport these criminal aliens involved in drugs for deportation purposes. It will help this Nation get a handle on the many foreign born individuals in our prison system who have engaged in drug related criminal activity and face deportation spirited out of this country as soon as possible.

We should do all we can to get these criminal aliens involved in drugs and related violence out of our Nation as soon as possible and not allow them back on our streets to affect our communities, schools, and childrens' futures and very lives and well being.

I ask that the full text of the bill be printed hereafter:

H.R. .

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY FOR NATIONAL GUARD TO ASSIST IN TRANSPORTATION OF CERTAIN ALIENS.

Section 112(d)(1) of title 32, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "The plan as approved by the Secretary may provide for the use of personnel and equipment of the National Guard of that State to assist the Immigration and Naturalization Service in the transportation of aliens who have violated a Federal or State law prohibiting or regulating the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance."

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE BY VFW ROMANOWSKI POST 6896

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to mark 50 years of dedication by

the Sgt. Stanley F. Romanowski Post 6896 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The ideals embodied in the Post membership stand as a model of public service.

In exemplary fashion, the Romanowski Post has served its members and the community at large. I am proud to be associated, as a member, with an organization whose fierce camaraderie is only outshone by its firm commitment to serving Dearborn, the 4th VFW district, and Wayne County, MI.

To list all of the ways Post 6896 serves the community would be near to impossible, yet it is important to recognize a few of the programs which the Post has established: the Post Blood Bank, serving both members and the public; spaghetti dinners supporting muscular dystrophy research; and the Christmas Needy Basket Program providing food for families enduring hard times. These are just three examples of the selfless charity central to Romanowski's mission. The additions of the Ladies Auxiliary and the Dads Post have increased the number of people who have the opportunity to participate in a positive way in Post activities while also expanding the resources available to be dedicated to charitable pursuits. The numerous clubs and leagues which operate within the post have helped to create a supportive and congenial atmosphere.

On May 12, 1946, when the Post was humbly instituted in the gymnasium of the Munger Intermediate School, its members could not have foreseen the success that was ahead. Romanowski has been the largest Post in the Department. It has long held the Drill Team title of Department Champions (first captured in 1965), and twice hosted the VFW National Convention. Throughout the years, the Post has gained a well-deserved reputation for hospitality and generosity.

Mr. Speaker, it is with honor and personal pride that I congratulate my home Post for 50 years of dedicated service in southeast Michigan.

BROWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM WINS AWARD

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a south Florida institution which has recently received the highest honor in its field. The American Libraries Association and the Library Journal have named the Broward County Library System, the "1996 National Library of the Year."

The Broward County Library System has consistently provided the residents of south Florida with excellent service, valuable resources, and vital information. The library system has become a fixture within the community, and the community support is extraordinary. The library draws more attendance than all the Florida sports teams combined. The Miami Herald proclaimed the library to be "one of the Broward County Commission's most important achievements." Support such as this illustrates the Broward County Library's successful pursuit of excellence and innovative approaches to library service.

In our growing age of technology and telecommunications, the Broward County Library

System has provided state of the art resources which are in high demand. The library volunteered to pilot the FreeNet System to enhance access in providing the South Florida community with electronic mail, a public forum to exchange ideas, and internet service to research data bases. During its expansion in service and information, the library system has proven its commitment to develop a service that will meet the technological standards of the 21st century.

Through its program of service and dedication, the Broward County Library System has kept the taxpayer in high regard. For example, the library system formed a partnership with Broward Community College in order to consolidate financial resources for operational and construction services. This partnership has saved taxpayers \$17,000,000—which is the total cost of building and operating two libraries. Both the public and private sectors have enabled the Broward County Library System to provide essential service, as well as a commitment to education.

The Broward County Library System has provided educational standards that have been adopted and practiced by educators. The library has teamed up with local schools, colleges and universities in providing its coveted resources for all age groups.

Mr. Speaker, throughout this country there are many individuals who are dedicated to strengthening our community spirit, one such individual is Mr. Samuel Morrison, Director of the Libraries Division of Broward County. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations to Sam Morrison and the staff of the Broward County Library System on the receipt of the 1996 National Library of the Year Award.

MEMORIAL DAY 1996

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the observance of Memorial Day. This day we pause from our busy schedules to honor those who have given their lives defending our freedom in the line of duty. A small stone market at Omaha Beach Cemetery echoes our gratitude with this simple but powerful acknowledgement. "To these we owe our highest resolve, that the cause for which they died, we shall live."

The efforts of the men and women who valiantly served our country here and abroad to preserve peace and liberty deserve our highest recognition. Whether we observe this occasion through ceremony or prayer, Memorial Day leaves few hearts unmoved. From the remote places of Argonne, Normandy, Inchon, Da Nang, and Kuwait City, Americans have shed their blood so that others might live in peace, without fear of tyranny and aggression. We have an obligation to remember the names and the deeds of the Americans who paid the price for our freedom.

The courage and valor shown by the men and women who have served our country is symbolized by the plethora of monuments and memorials, each commemorating the deeds of untold numbers of Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. For those

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 empowered 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 empowered to act jointly in settling a minister's 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.