

its pledge of liberty and justice for all, then we must come together to end the repugnant wave or racially motivated arsons perpetrated against African-American churches.

After hearing today of yet two more burnings of predominantly African-American churches, the latest of more than 34 since January 1995, I commend my colleagues Chairman HENRY HYDE and JOHN CONYERS for proposing this crucial legislation. H.R. 3525 is an unequivocal representation of the Congress' condemnation of these acts of violence. This bill also provides for reasonable steps to fight these kinds of crimes. This legislation sensibly amends the United States Code to facilitate the use of Federal law to prosecute persons who attack religious property based on the race, color, or ethnic characteristics of persons associated with that property. In addition, this bill allows victims to obtain financial assistance under the victims of crime fund for any injuries caused by an attack on religious property.

Mr. Speaker, I denounce the recent epidemic of arson against African-American churches across this Nation. In addition to supporting H.R. 3525, I am committed to insisting that law enforcement authorities do everything within their power to apprehend the persons responsible for such acts of unadulterated hatred. This bipartisan legislation being considered by the House of Representatives will certainly assist our efforts to prevent these immoral crimes.

It is my hope that from the ashes of African-American churches Americans will come together to put an end to racial intolerance. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my outrage and that of good Americans across this great country at the wave of suspicious fires that have swept at least 30 churches in the South in recent months. Churches and synagogues are the cornerstones of our communities, providing the moral and spiritual cultivation that our society so desperately needs. I ask all my colleagues in the House to voice their condemnation of these deplorable acts. Vandalizing places of worship is not a partisan issue.

I also call on all the moral leaders of our Nation and those of every religious background to stand against these acts of terror. Every synagogue, mosque and church is vulnerable to the same acts of terrorism committed against our black churches and it is crucial that leaders of every religious denomination speak out against the vandalism of our nation's houses of worship.

It is a shame that the history of violence and intimidation towards black people in this country is repeating itself. Will we allow hate groups such as the Klu Klux Klan, the Aryan Nation, skinheads, and other white supremacist organizations to rise again? Will we allow the historic achievements of our courageous freedom fighters who sought to create a nation of fairness and racial harmony to be further defamed?

In our society, arson of a church attended predominately by African-Americans carries a unique and menacing threat to individuals in our Nation who remain physically vulnerable to acts of violence and intimidation because of their race. Such threats are intolerable and individuals responsible for such acts must be aggressively pursued and apprehended.

As churches burn from flames of hate and intolerance, there are those in our society who would dismantle civil rights legislation and affirmative action that have provided assistance to groups in our Nation who have been discriminated against due to their race, sex, or religious beliefs.

We as a nation must not allow the practice of scapegoating others because they are of a different race or nationality or poor to continue. Our Nation was built on diversity and we must refute any beliefs that condone or support an atmosphere of blame and intolerance against those in our society who are defenseless, particularly our sick, poor, and aged. Just as the churches, synagogues, and mosques shelter our weak and defenseless, we as Americans have an obligation to protect those houses of worship from vicious attacks.

I commend President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno on their quick responses to investigate these criminal acts of terrorism and I hope those who make such threats will be prosecuted and will serve sentences commensurate with the cowardly and despicable nature of their actions.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H.R. 3525, the Church Arson Prevention Act, I am pleased that the House is considering this important legislation.

The legislation before us is straightforward. It will help law enforcement officials capture those responsible for these heinous crimes.

Unfortunately, the motivation of those committing these acts is also straightforward—hate, ignorance and disrespect.

More than 30 fires have occurred at churches throughout the South, leaving in their wake a fear that the demons of the past have risen again. This time they are not content to spew their slogans of hatred. Instead, their hate is at such a fever pitch that these brutes attack one of the most powerful symbols of community and love—places of worship.

In the 1960's our Nation witnessed a dramatic struggle for racial equality. Efforts to give African-Americans equal opportunity were often met with violent protest, and America lost a number of brilliant young leaders to racial hatred and bigotry, including religious men like the Reverend Martin Luther King.

In the end, the American ideal of equality won, and hate lost.

Now, those who would tear our Nation apart have returned.

We must collectively respond to this hatred. We cannot tolerate these deplorable acts against African-Americans and our places of worship. Indeed, the combination of this racial and religious intolerance is immoral and must be countered at every turn.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased the House will pass this legislation to fight these despicable acts, and the Senate should follow suit.

In addition, I would urge the President and Assistant Attorney General Patrick to continue their efforts to bring the perpetrators of these hateful acts to justice—America's citizens of all races and religions deserve no less.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important legislation. These hate crimes against places of worship are simply intolerable and we in Congress must take quick and decisive action against these horrible acts of terrorism.

While we are saddened by these tragedies we can take heart on the words of one of the ministers who said they have burned the building, but they haven't destroyed the church.

I commend the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. HYDE, its ranking member, Mr. CONYERS, and all of my colleagues who are working together so effectively to see that this legislation is speedily passed in the hopes that the hatred that is rearing its ugly head will be stamped out.

Yesterday, two more churches burned to the ground. Institutions of worship represent America's faith. Congress must give the Department of Justice the tools necessary to investigate, apprehend and prosecute those who destroy or desecrate religious property. Our religious liberty is at stake and people's lives are in danger.

I join with my colleagues to act now to put out these fires of hatred and ignorance and to help with the healing of those in the communities affected.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3525, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule 1 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

WILLIAM H. NATCHER BRIDGE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3572) to designate the bridge on U.S. Route 231 which crosses the Ohio River between Maceo, KY, and Rockport, IN, as the "William H. Natcher Bridge."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3572

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The bridge on United States Route 231 which crosses the Ohio River between Maceo, Kentucky, and Rockport, Indiana, shall be known and designated as the "William H. Natcher Bridge".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the bridge referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "William H. Natcher Bridge".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. PETRI] and the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. RAHALL] each will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. PETRI].

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3572, which would name a bridge on U.S. 231 over the Ohio River near Owensboro, KY, in honor of our late and former colleague, William Natcher, is identical to legislation which was passed unanimously by this House on September 22, 1994. Unfortunately, the Senate never acted on this

legislation during the previous Congress.

A compilation of tributes to Chairman Natcher has recently been published and in the near future will be distributed throughout the State of Kentucky by members of the Kentucky delegation. We are considering this bill today in conjunction with those activities.

Representative Natcher was born in Bowling Green, KY, in 1909 and was educated at Western Kentucky State College and the Ohio State University law school. His life was dedicated to public service—serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II and holding a series of local and State offices before being elected to Congress in 1953. He moved up the ranks of the Appropriations Committee, eventually assuming the chairmanship of the full committee in 1993.

I am proud to have had the privilege of serving in the House with Congressman Natcher. Although well-known for having cast 18,401 consecutive votes during his 40 years here, Congressman Natcher's accomplishments are much more than that voting record. He put a very high value on public service and set a very high standard for himself. Bill Natcher was always an inspiration to me and, I know, to many other Members as well.

He was a gentleman, a statesman, and a man of unquestioned integrity who served this House and his constituents in Kentucky from 1954 until his death in 1994, with quiet, unflinching dedication. The naming of this bridge for Bill Natcher is a fitting and lasting memorial to our friend and former colleague.

I urge passage of H.R. 3572.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I simply would like to add that many of us in this body would agree that Mr. Natcher's distinguished service to this Nation, and to the people of the Second Congressional District of Kentucky, merits in the very least some type of official recognition.

The pending legislation reflects the wishes of the Kentucky Delegation to in some small way provide this recognition.

This bill would designate a bridge on U.S. Route 231, which crosses the Ohio River in the vicinity of Owensboro, KY, as the "William H. Natcher Bridge."

It passed the House last Congress, but failed to make it into law.

I would, as such, urge a unanimous vote in approving this bill.

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

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. LEWIS], Mr. Natcher's successor in this body.

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3572, which will officially designate the bridge spanning Maceo, KY, and Rockport, IN, as the "William H. Natcher Bridge."

Though folks on either side of the Ohio River back home know this project as the Natcher bridge, we have not yet named it at the Federal level.

Two years ago, this body passed a similar bill, but the other body kept it bottled up in committee. So, today is our chance to get this taken care of.

Many of you know that I represent the Second District of Kentucky, which Mr. Natcher served so honorably for 41 years. And over the past 2 years, I've heard many stories about Mr. Natcher; from Members of Congress to barbers to elevator operators. And they all seem to have one thing in common: an incredible level of respect and admiration—on both sides of the aisle.

Congressman Natcher was a gentleman in every sense of the word.

We all know about his incredible voting streak: When he finally was unable to make it to the Hill, he had not missed a rollcall vote in more than 40 years—or 18,401 consecutive votes.

Cal Ripken could learn something from the gentleman from Bowling Green, KY. And so can we all.

My office was recently sent a number of copies of a memorial tribute to Congressman Natcher. It consists of speeches made in this Chamber when he became seriously ill, and after he passed on, as well as various articles about his career.

It is an inspiring work.

I'm honored to be able to send copies of this book to Mr. Natcher's family, and to the schools and public libraries of the Second District.

There, Mr. Natcher's legacy of hard work, fairness, and bipartisanship can continue to touch the lives of young people.

Let us pass this final, simple tribute to Congressman Natcher, and ensure that the Natcher Bridge, which will be built primarily with Federal dollars, is known by its proper name here in Washington, DC, and across the country.

I thank two colleagues of Mr. Natcher—Chairman PETRI and Chairman SHUSTER—for their quick work on bringing this legislation to the floor.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. BUNNING].

(Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, to become an effective leader—a real leader—you need three ingredients:

Belief—You gotta believe in something.

Involvement—you can't lead unless you get down in the trenches yourself to make things happen.

Commitment—you have to stay in for the long haul—you have to overcome challenges and that takes time.

Belief, involvement, and commitment. That is what makes a leader. And Bill Natcher had all three.

For 40 years, Bill Natcher served in the House of Representatives. For 40

years, he never missed a day of work. For 40 years, he never missed a single vote—18,401 votes. That's commitment.

Nine Presidents came and went. He served under seven different Speakers of the House. But Bill Natcher was there day in day out, quietly going about the business of doing the people's business.

He didn't showboat. He didn't make a lot of speeches. He didn't schmooze with the press. He just quietly went about the business of public service. Because he believed in it.

And he was never shy about sharing his beliefs. I guess I heard his spiel a thousand times in the 7 years I was in Washington with him. He repeated it virtually every time he spoke before a group of Kentuckians visiting Washington. It wasn't a complex philosophy.

He would simply say, and I quote, "If you educate your children and if you provide for the health of your people, you will continue to live in the strongest Nation in the world."

That's it. That was the principle that motivated Bill Natcher for 40 years.

He believed—he got involved—and he demonstrated unbelievable commitment.

Because of that commitment, he did more than set voting and attendance records that will stand forever. He also made a very big difference in the health, education, and welfare of a whole nation.

That is leadership. That was Bill Natcher.

Bill Natcher deserves this honor—I rise in support of the resolution.

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Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. ROGERS].

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution and commend my colleague, the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. LEWIS], the sponsor of the bill, and the Representative of the Second Congressional District, a job which Mr. Natcher held, of course, for many years. I also commend the chairman, the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. PETRI, and the ranking member, Mr. RAHALL, for bringing this bill to the floor.

Bill Natcher was a patriot, pure and simple; a statesman, in every sense of the word, and a dear, dear friend to many in this institution; in fact, I would say all. He also served as an example of what every Member of this body aspires to be. He was of the highest character and the most impeccable integrity, with the moral courage and compass to follow his beliefs, to follow his tremendous sense of right and wrong. He was a longtime member, of course, of the Committee on Appropriations, its distinguished chairman beginning in December 1992. Before that, he served tirelessly for 18 years as chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and his accomplishments there have served this Nation in

ways beyond our ability to fully appreciate.

There are many tributes that have been bestowed upon our State's former dean, and many more to come, I hope, but this tribute is especially fitting. Bill Natcher labored for years to build this bridge. When finished, the Natcher Bridge will be a daily reminder to his many beloved constituents of the tremendous service he gave to his district, his State, and the people of this Nation.

Again, I want to congratulate the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. LEWIS] for sponsoring this memorial to one of our greatest statesmen in the House and the Congress, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished, very capable gentleman who is the Representative of the Third District of Kentucky, Mr. WARD.

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution and am very proud to be able to do so. I am disappointed that I was not able to get to know Bill Natcher. I had the opportunity on literally just a couple of occasions to introduce myself to him and to meet him. My service in this Congress began after his passing. But I do know very, very well of his reputation, because each of us who was involved in government and politics in Kentucky knew very well of Chairman Natcher.

We knew of him as an example to aspire to, not just his voting record, but obviously that reflected his commitment and his sense of duty, but more than that, to the way he conducted himself in office.

Chairman Natcher was a fellow who had no press secretary. Chairman Natcher was a fellow who regularly turned back some of his office budget to the Treasury. Chairman Natcher, in short, was a fellow who represented his district in a time-honored fashion that maybe is no longer to be seen and will never again be seen.

Chairman Natcher prided himself on campaigning out of his sedan. He drove around the Second Congressional District of Kentucky from courthouse to courthouse, from crossroads to crossroads, and made sure that the people of his district knew who he was and what he was about, and that he in turn knew who they were and what they were about.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to support this resolution, and look forward to driving across the William Natcher Bridge.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of this resolution naming a bridge on behalf of our former leader, Chairman Natcher, who was a model for so many of us in the Congress. His dedication, his leadership, his devotion to public responsibilities, served as a reminder to all of us how much more we can and should be doing as we represent the people of our own districts.

I think this memorial is a befitting memorial in naming the bridge after Mr. Natcher, because he was like a sturdy bridge for all of us, between our constituents and the Congress and the Federal Government. I am pleased to rise in support of the resolution.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. HENRY HYDE, the distinguished chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary.

(Mr. HYDE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I just cannot let this opportunity pass without paying homage to one of the really great people I have been privileged to meet in a rather long life. Bill Natcher was as close to a perfect legislator as I have ever encountered, a man of impeccable rectitude. He was as straight as he stood, which was with ramrod severity. He was honorable, he was straightforward. You knew where he stood on any issue and every issue. But, most importantly, his contributions, which were many, most importantly they were not that he ran the Committee on Appropriations with an iron hand, but with compassion and a generous hand. He never turned anybody away who needed help, any cause. He was a liberal in the best sense of the term as anybody I have ever met, and yet he kept a very tight ship.

But I think his most important and lasting contribution was his defense of the unborn. It was not very popular for him, but he was pro-life, and there are literally millions of children alive today because Bill Natcher would not budge on the issue of Federal funding for abortion. He was a great man, he is a great man, and one bridge is hardly enough, but at least it is a start.

God bless you, Bill Natcher.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. PETRI] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3572.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3572.

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

There was no objection.

SINGLE AUDIT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1996

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1579) to streamline and improve the effectiveness of chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Single Audit Act").

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1579

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; PURPOSES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996".

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) promote sound financial management, including effective internal controls, with respect to Federal awards administered by non-Federal entities;

(2) establish uniform requirements for audits of Federal awards administered by non-Federal entities;

(3) promote the efficient and effective use of audit resources;

(4) reduce burdens on State and local governments, Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations; and

(5) ensure that Federal departments and agencies, to the maximum extent practicable, rely upon and use audit work done pursuant to chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code (as amended by this Act).

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO TITLE 31, UNITED STATES CODE.

Chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"CHAPTER 75—REQUIREMENTS FOR SINGLE AUDITS

"Sec.

"7501. Definitions.

"7502. Audit requirements; exemptions.

"7503. Relation to other audit requirements.

"7504. Federal agency responsibilities and relations with non-Federal entities.

"7505. Regulations.

"7506. Monitoring responsibilities of the Comptroller General.

"7507. Effective date.

"§ 7501. Definitions

"(a) As used in this chapter, the term—

"(1) 'Comptroller General' means the Comptroller General of the United States;

"(2) 'Director' means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;

"(3) 'Federal agency' has the same meaning as the term 'agency' in section 551(1) of title 5;

"(4) 'Federal awards' means Federal financial assistance and Federal cost-reimbursement contracts that non-Federal entities receive directly from Federal awarding agencies or indirectly from pass-through entities;

"(5) 'Federal financial assistance' means assistance that non-Federal entities receive or administer in the form of grants, loans, loan guarantees, property, cooperative agreements, interest subsidies, insurance, food commodities, direct appropriations, or other assistance, but does not include amounts received as reimbursement for services rendered to individuals in accordance with guidance issued by the Director;