

low. It essentially maintained the existing funding level. And although the House VA/HUD Appropriations bill did include a one-year, \$1.7 billion increase in veterans health care, it fell well short of what veterans groups say is needed.

I voted against the House version on this VA/HUD Appropriations bill because defeating it would have given House members another opportunity to find the money needed to properly fund veterans' health care. Unfortunately, the Senate did not offer a higher funding level and the conference committee settled on the smaller increase.

I voted for this bill, but I know we can do better. In the future, I hope we will listen to the veterans and work together to better address our veterans' most pressing needs. They deserve it.

TRIBUTE TO TROOPER JAMES SAUNDERS

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Washington State Patrol Trooper James Saunders, who was killed in the line of duty on October 7th while making a routine traffic stop in Pasco, Washington. The suspect in this case is a violent illegal alien who has a long criminal record.

Trooper Saunders leaves behind a small child and a wife expecting a second child. No words can express the sorrow they feel right now. I pray that God will become their strength as they begin the healing process.

As facts emerge in this case, the question we must ask ourselves is how can we stop tragedies like this. The suspect in the case had been deported three times by the U.S. Border Patrol in the past three years and this summer he was held in jail in Pasco awaiting a November trial on a cocaine charge. Instead of remaining in jail until trial, he was released on bond. There has been a lot of finger pointing over who is to blame for not placing the suspect on immigration detention, which is the standard procedure for violent criminal aliens, and while this should be investigated, it will not bring back Trooper Saunders. It is clear that this case shows how bureaucratic mistakes aren't just bureaucratic when crimes are committed and lives are lost. Our region is sensitive to this problem. An Omak police officer was killed in the line of duty just two years ago by a suspect who was an illegal alien.

Mr. Speaker, we must learn from this tragedy to prevent future acts of violence. I believe this case highlights three problems that need to be addressed.

First, legal immigration and border enforcement are two very separate functions of the Federal Government. Under our current system, the Border Patrol reports to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Cooperation between INS and Border Patrol needs improvement. I support the approach offered by Chairman Harold Rogers to reorganize the INS into two different agencies within the Department of Justice: immigration services and immigration enforcement (or border patrol). This reorganization will empower both divisions to successfully fulfill their respective mis-

sions. Bureaucratic overlap and miscommunication should not be the cause of illegal aliens having easy access to our country.

Second, the Border Patrol needs more agents. Unfortunately, the Clinton Administration has not advocated for more resources and personnel for this department. There was bipartisan criticism earlier this year when President Clinton did not request funding for an increase of 1,000 Border Patrol agents for fiscal year 2000. Border communities are significantly impacted by this short-sighted decision. My home state of Washington recently had 6 agents detailed to the Arizona border because they need more agents to interdict illegal aliens and illegal drugs there. Overall, 204 Western region agents have been detailed to the Arizona border at a cost of \$1.8 million per month. Arizona may need more agents, but that should not come at the expense of other regions. If we had an increase in the total number of agents, there would be no need to detail agents elsewhere. Northern Border Patrol sectors should be given an increase in Border Patrol personnel. This fact is important because the Spokane sector, which is located in my District needs, 15 agents and 2 support personnel just to get to "critical operation level." The Spokane sector has 350 miles to cover and under the current staffing level they are only able to monitor 6 percent of the border on a regular basis. The loss of 6 agents will have an impact not just in border monitoring, but in criminal detention. Overstretched staff will be less able to visit local jails to ensure criminal aliens are not released back into the streets to commit more crimes, which apparently is part of the problem involving the situation that led to the shooting death of Trooper Saunders.

Our American border with Canada and our northern airports need additional agents as well. Eastern Washington streets are facing a significant increase in methamphetamine, heroin and marijuana use. Reports indicate that as America's southern border is reinforced, foreign drug producers are increasingly using Canada as a smuggling gateway between foreign drug producers and the United States. The Border Patrol recently interdicted the largest seizure of methamphetamine precursors in the history of our region. I am concerned that detailing of agents to the southern border will result in more drugs coming across our northern border.

Finally, the shooting of Trooper Saunders is another example of how illegal immigration and the drug trade are becoming more violent and police officers are being threatened. 104 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty this year, 4 in the last two weeks, and many of these deaths can be attributed to the drug trade and illegal immigration. Law enforcement officials in my district tell me that street officers are finding that drug dealers and illegal aliens are more heavily armed and willing to use violence to evade detection and apprehension. Many veteran officers are choosing to retire because the streets have become too violent. This Congress has made great strides to provide more resources for law enforcement departments, but we should do more. The Bulletproof Protection Act signed into law last year has helped provide small and rural departments with lifesaving vests for their officers. Vests should be standard equipment for every police officer,

but unfortunately many departments do not have the resources to provide them. The Local Law Enforcement Block Grant has also given departments the ability to better tailor their programs according to the needs of their community rather than to an arbitrary Department of Justice grant requirement.

Mr. Speaker, we can and should do more to prevent violence against police officers. I hope the death of Trooper Saunders will be met with action and efforts to secure our borders and protect our law enforcement services.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent Thursday, October 14, 1999, and Monday, October 18, 1999, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 500 through 508. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 500, "yes" on rollcall vote 501, "yes" on rollcall vote 502, "no" on rollcall vote 503, "no" on rollcall vote 504, "present" on rollcall vote 505, "yes" on rollcall vote 506, "yes" on rollcall vote 507, and "yes" on rollcall vote 508.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK SULLIVAN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, the community of Ferndale lost a good friend and a dedicated public citizen when Patrick Sullivan passed away on October 2, 1999.

Patrick Sullivan was a life-long resident of Ferndale. Beginning in 1957, he worked his way up through the ranks in the Ferndale Police Department, first serving as patrolman, and then rising to detective, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and ultimately achieving the rank of Chief. As Chief of Police, he was responsible for bringing intense training and professionalism to the Department; he was called a "cop's cop." He retired from the department after 35 years of dedication and devotion to the safety and well-being of his fellow citizens.

After his retirement as Chief, Patrick Sullivan served one term as a Ferndale Councilman, and then as security director of Ferndale Schools. Regardless of the position he held, Patrick Sullivan was a larger-than-life man.

His brother, Joe, who succeeded him as Chief, said it best, "Patrick was like an M and M—hard on the outside, and soft on the inside." He has an extraordinary interest in kids—always there for them when they got into trouble, helping them find their way in his tough but caring approach. His cottage up north was open to hundreds of youth who otherwise would not have been able to have a vacation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our condolences to Patrick Sullivan's wife Glenda, his son, Kevin, his brothers and sisters and his four step grandchildren. Patrick Sullivan will indeed be missed by all of

us privileged to know him and the hundreds whose lives he directly impacted with his friendship and warmth of personality.

RECOGNIZING TWO DOG NET

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Two Dog Net, a unique Internet environment designed specifically for children. It features a complete security system providing educational and entertaining children's content, secure email, games and more. Two Dog Net is the gateway to The

Children's Internet, a collection of over a million pre-approved Internet pages accessed through Two Dog Net's "kid friendly" search engine.

Two Dog Net is based in Northern California. Its mission is to become the dominant Internet portal for children ages 3–14 and their families, by featuring the unique combination of security, educational programming and compelling animation and sound. The company developed its patent-pending Safe Zone Technology which provides safe browsing for children Internet users.

Two Dog Net has an award winning creative team that knows how to produce educational and entertaining content that children love. Two Dog Net uses animation and sound to captivate young users. The Company was de-

veloped by educators, who applied the Two Dog Net educational standards to all aspects of the development process. Two Dog Net will also be accessible in two languages including Spanish, Portuguese and French.

The content of Two Dog Net is both personalized and age-specific. Children can get their name on their home page, and a special greeting on their birthday. Each age group offers fun and innovative themes for kids to choose from, making it fit their individual personalities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Two Dog Net for their child-safe Internet environment. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Two Dog Net many more years of continued success