

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to send a strong message to our public safety officers by supporting this legislation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 802, Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor. I am pleased that this legislation has moved through the Congress on an expedited process. I have strongly supported similar legislation in the past and I am proud to do so again.

H.R. 802 would establish a Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor to be awarded periodically to a selected public safety officer "for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty." The bill provides for the Department of Justice to solicit, review and screen nominations for the award. Final decisions on the award would be made by the board to be appointed by the President and both parties' congressional leadership.

This bill would also possibly honor many fallen heroes of the Houston Police Department who were killed in the line of duty while protecting society. Officer like Troy Alan Blando assigned to the auto theft division, who was killed on May 19, 1999 when he was attempting to arrest a suspect driving a stolen Lexus. The suspect fired a 40 caliber Glock, striking Officer Blando once in the chest. Officer Blando made it back to his vehicle and radioed for back-up, giving other units his location and a description of the suspect. Officers arrived on the scene within seconds and arrested the fleeing suspect. Officer Blando died in route to Ben Taub Hospital. Officer Blando was a 19 year veteran of the Houston Police Department.

Officer K.D. Kinkaid was killed on May 23, 1998 while he was off duty and driving in his truck with his wife. As they drove past an oncoming vehicle, an object struck the windshield of the truck. Officer Kinkaid turned around and followed the other vehicle. The other vehicle stopped and Officer Kinkaid exited his truck and approached the driver's side. Officer Kinkaid identified himself as a police officer and proceeded to question the suspects in the vehicle. One of the suspects shot Officer Kinkaid and they fled the scene in the vehicle. Officer Kinkaid died from the gunshot wound a few days later.

Officer C.H. Trinh died on April 6, 1997 while working at his parents' convenience store when a man walked in and attempted to rob him. Officer Trinh was shot in the head and died at the scene. The suspect who was later caught, confessed to the killing, telling police he had entered the store with a handgun and jumped the counter. He stated that after taking some of Officer Trinh's jewelry, Tong demanded his wallet. When he saw Officer Trinh's police badge he got scared and shot the officer.

Officer D.S. Erickson was killed on December 24, 1995 while she was working an extra job directing traffic outside a local church on Christmas Eve. She was struck by a passing vehicle. She was transported to the hospital but died during surgery.

Officer G.P. Gaddis was murdered on January 31, 1994 by one of two suspects he was transporting to jail for aggravated robbery. Both suspects had been searched and handcuffed behind their backs prior to being placed in the back seat of the patrol car. One of the suspects wiggled his hands, still cuffed, to his front, and retrieved a .380 hidden on his person. He then shot Officer Gaddis in the back

of the head as he was driving down the road. The patrol car crashed into a house and the suspect escaped from the wrecked car, but was arrested a short distance away from the scene.

These are some of the sorrowing stories of officers who have lost their lives in my home city of Houston. Presently, 95 police officers from the Houston Police Department have been killed in the line of duty.

H.R. 802 is an important initiative because there are many officers that act heroically everyday but never receive their due credit. They must be recognized for their invaluable service because they accomplish so much for communities throughout the nation. These are important issues of substantial concern. For this reason, H.R. 802 has garnered bipartisan support by my colleagues.

In the 106th Congress, a similar bill, H.R. 46, was marked up on March 24, 1999 in the Subcommittee on Crime of the Judiciary Committee. The bill was marked up by the Full Committee and was ordered to be reported by voice vote. The bill passed in the House and was later added into an omnibus Senate bill with several controversial provisions. While changes were made by the Senate to address objectionable parts of the bill so that it could be taken up in the House by unanimous consent, it was not brought before the House adjournment sine die. That was, obviously, unfortunate and can be rectified today.

I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 802, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules is planning to meet the week of March 26 to grant a rule which will limit the amendment process for floor consideration of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2002.

The Committee on the Budget ordered the budget resolution reported on March 21 and is expected to file its committee report late tomorrow.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit five copies and a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in room H-312 of the Capitol by 6 p.m. on Monday, March 26. The text of the concurrent resolution is available at the Committee on the Budget and on that committee's Web site.

As in past years, the Committee on Rules intends to give priority to amendments offered as complete substitutes.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel and the Congressional Budget Office to ensure their substitute amendments are properly drafted and scored, and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their substitute amendments comply with the rules of the House.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 247, TORNADO SHELTERS ACT

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 93 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 93

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 247) to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to authorize communities to use community development block grant funds for construction of tornado-safe shelters in manufactured home parks. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the Congressional Record and numbered 1 pursuant to clause 8 of rule XVIII. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on

the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

□ 1030

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 93 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 247, the Tornado Shelters Act. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate, evenly divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services.

The rule provides that it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 1.

The rule further provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be open for amendment at any point.

Finally, the rule allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to accord priority and recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 247 amends the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to authorize communities to use Community Development Block Grant funds for construction of tornado-safe shelters in manufactured home parks. As my colleagues may remember, a deadly tornado just before Christmas took the lives of a dozen people in Alabama and to help prevent similar tragedies, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) introduced this legislation earlier this year.

Tornadoes occur in many parts of the world, and these destructive forces of nature are found most frequently during the spring and summer months. With spring starting this week, I think that it is appropriate for the House at this time to be considering legislation that could help mitigate in the future further wind storms in areas that seem to be hardest hit.

According to FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in an average year, 800 tornadoes are reported nationwide, resulting in 80 deaths and over 1,500 injuries.

Hurricanes and tornadoes both have in common very high winds and obviously associated damage. From Hurricane Andrew we in south Florida

learned about the vulnerability of housing construction with roofs and windows and doors being particularly important areas to check for weaknesses.

Mobile home parks are particularly susceptible to damage from high winds, even if precautions have been taken to tie down the units. I am hopeful that this important legislation, the Tornado Shelters Act, will help address these problems.

Mr. Speaker, I think we all owe a debt of gratitude to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) for his leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support both this open rule, as well as the underlying bill, Mr. Speaker; and I look forward to debate and passage of this important legislation.

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, this is an open rule. It will allow for the consideration of H.R. 247, which is called the Tornado Shelter Act. As my colleague from Florida has described, this rule will provide 1 hour of general debate to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule permits amendments under the 5-minute rule. This is the normal amending process in the House. All Members on both sides of the aisle will have an opportunity to offer germane amendments.

Tornadoes represent the most furious side of nature. They cause enormous loss of life and destruction of property every year. Unfortunately, my own community of southwest Ohio has seen some of the worst tornadoes in recent years. In April of 1974, a devastating tornado killed 33 people in Xenia, Ohio, just outside my district; and the tornado destroyed a quarter of the homes in that city. The city was struck again by tornadoes in 1989 and 2000.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, mobile homes are particularly vulnerable to a tornado's destructive power, because they can be overturned so easily by high winds; and I am sure there is close to a consensus among Members of the House that the Federal Government should provide assistance to those who are in the greatest danger from tornadoes. That is the thought behind this bill which would permit the Federal community development block grants to be used to construct or maintain tornado shelters in mobile home parks.

Though the bill has worthy goals, I do object to the process used to bring this bill to the floor. It did not go through committee, there were no hearings, there was no committee report. There was minimum notice given to the Members that the bill would be considered, and I do not think that is

good legislating. We have a process to help us understand legislation and its consequences. We have a process to ensure that Members on both sides of the aisle who have questions or concerns about the bill are treated fairly, and that process was not followed.

During Committee on Rules consideration, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) raised questions about the bill. I think this is a good bill; however, I would be a lot more confident in supporting it if I knew that it was fully examined through the committee process, and that questions like the ones asked by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) had already been answered before the bill came to the House Floor.

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE).

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. 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. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 71, nays 336, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 56]

YEAS—71

Allen	Gutierrez	Meek (FL)
Andrews	Hall (OH)	Miller, George
Baird	Hastings (FL)	Mink
Baldacci	Hill	Nadler
Berkley	Hilliard	Neal
Berry	Inslee	Oberstar
Bonior	Israel	Obey
Capps	Jackson-Lee	Olver
Capuano	(TX)	Payne
Carson (IN)	Jefferson	Pelosi
Carson (OK)	Kanjorski	Peterson (MN)
Clay	Kennedy (RI)	Price (NC)
Clayton	Kilpatrick	Roybal-Allard
Clyburn	LaFalce	Sandlin
Condit	Lampson	Schakowsky
Conyers	Langevin	Slaughter
Coyne	Lee	Stark
Crowley	Lewis (GA)	Stupak
DeFazio	Lowey	Tauscher
Delahunt	Matsui	Towns
Filner	McDermott	Udall (CO)
Frank	McGovern	Wall (WA)
Gephardt	McIntyre	Weiner
Gonzalez	McNulty	Woolsey

NAYS—336

Abercrombie	Bachus	Barr
Aderholt	Baker	Barrett
Akin	Baldwin	Bartlett
Armey	Ballenger	Barton
Baca	Barcia	Bass