

have debated this bill for about 50 minutes. Sadly to say, Mr. Speaker, in that time, another 45 World War II veterans have passed away.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1696.

This bill would expedite the construction of the already-approved World War II Memorial on the Mall in Washington, DC.

In short, World War II veterans have waited long enough. When the long dark shadows of aggression appeared and threatened to cloak liberty, it was the World War II veterans that ensured liberty, freedom and the rule of law. It is time that all Americans express the gratitude and admiration that our nation's World War II veterans rightly deserve.

Our World War II veterans are truly special. While many have served this great nation in varying capacities, it is the World War II generation that ultimately changed the course of history.

In return, this Congress must ensure the United States government remains steadfast in its commitment to provide World War II veterans and their families a memorial that they so richly deserve. We must act now.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1696, legislation to fast-track the Construction of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. This bill is necessary because it takes into account the crucial element of time; time that is running out for many veterans. Every day, we lose more than 1,000 World War II veterans. Today, less than 6 million remain alive.

The intent of the World War II Memorial is to honor the 16 million Americans who served in uniform during the war, the more than 400,000 who gave their lives, and the millions who supported the war effort on the homefront. World War II was a point of transition in American history, a point at which America's adolescence ended and a mature American mission emerged. This mission, as defined by President Franklin Roosevelt's Four Freedoms, was a call to all Americans to work to end tyranny and poverty wherever it is found.

World War II also marked a time of rapid advancement for America. In order to meet the material needs of the worldwide war effort, America's factories manufactured goods at an astronomical rate. To sustain this level of production while so many American men were putting on uniforms and going off to war, women entered the workforce in mass numbers for the first time. This forever changed the face of American industry, while also changing the way many women saw themselves and their role in American society.

The benefits provided to returning veterans, including financial assistance for education and home purchases, allowed many Americans to attain a level of freedom and independence that was not even imagined before the war. The Montgomery GI Bill provided countless veterans with a college education. In many cases, these veterans were the first in their family to go to college.

Above all, World War II was the moment in history when the United States helped save the world from fascism and tyranny. And, as Senator Bob Dole said, "It is time to thank the World War II veterans for doing what they believed was their duty—to help their country save the world. We must build a monument to bear them witness. Witness to young men who, armed with courage, liberated whole con-

tinents from tyranny. Witness to young soldiers who willingly died for a future they would never see."

As a testament to the urgency of this matter, I read in today's Washington Post, the obituary of Barbara Lazarsky. During World War II, Ms. Lazarsky served in the Women's Air Force Service Pilots. She contributed to the war effort by ferrying planes across the United States so that men were free for combat overseas. When the WASP program was disbanded after the war, Ms. Lazarsky became an aircraft accident analyst for the Air Transport Command. In 1947, she became a military and air attaché in India. Her recent death demonstrates the necessity of expediting the construction of the World War II Memorial.

This World War II Memorial honors those who served, and those who gave the "last full measure of devotion," while also commemorating the indelible mark left on American society. It is time to create a lasting monument to the legacy of those who gave so much and asked for so little. While we may disagree on the style and form of the memorial, we all agree on the moral imperative to honor those who served their country in its hour of need. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1696.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1696, legislation that would expedite building the World War II Memorial at the expense of protecting our National Mall. I inadvertently voted in support of this legislation earlier today. While I believe it is important to recognize the important contributions and sacrifices that our fighting men and women made during this turning event in world history, I do not support legislation that would do irrevocable harm to the World War II Memorial itself and to the national mall. If any precious national treasure deserves protection by Congress, it is the National Mall. H.R. 1696 would eliminate indispensable oversight for the largest and most significant memorial on the Mall since the Lincoln Memorial was constructed almost 80 years ago.

I oppose this legislation because not only is it unnecessary, but its provisions could seriously compromise the water quality and surrounding cultural and historical landmarks of the city. Congress should not promote legislation that would eliminate or reduce oversight on already agreed to provisions that the City and National Planning Commission have developed. Such critical provisions not addressed by this bill include not allowing contaminated groundwater to be pumped into the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay, ensuring the structural integrity of the Washington Monument, and providing tourists with the ability to appreciate this Memorial and the Mall without suffering severe traffic congestion.

Congress should let the National Planning Commission deal with building the Memorial in a more appropriate manner, one that is already underway and which befits the important legacy that this Memorial is designed to honor.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, It is essential that future generations always remember the sacrifices for freedom made by the World War II generation. A tribute to the men and women who helped win that war, both overseas and on the home front is long overdue. It's for this reason that I'm working to expedite construction of the memorial and why I will vote with my colleagues in

the U.S. House of Representatives to pass legislation that directs work on the World War II Memorial begin as soon as possible.

The construction of the country's first national memorial dedicated to all who served in the armed forces and Merchant Marine of the United States during World War II on the National Mall is a fitting tribute to their courage. I am disappointed by the efforts of those to delay construction of the World War II Memorial, but the real victims of the indefinite delay are the members of that generation, who now must wait even longer for it to be completed. It is a harsh reality, but of the 16 million who served in uniform during the war, it is estimated that only 5 million are still alive, and of whom, we lose 1,100 each day.

Throughout a lengthy, open and democratic approval process, the American people have expressed their overwhelming support for the construction of the National WWII Memorial on our nation's mall. Hundreds of thousands of individual Americans, hundreds of corporations and foundations; dozens of civic, fraternal and professional organizations; state legislatures, and veterans organizations have joined the effort to say thank you to America's WWII generation.

Each year, millions of visitors come to the nation's capital to appreciate its monuments to our country's founding fathers, great presidents, and places of government. Home to our nation's cherished symbols of freedom, the memorial will beautifully complement the green vistas of the Mall and its existing monuments. They story of the World War II generation is an inspiration for us all. Once completed, this memorial will be a visible and timeless reminder of what they did to protect freedom and democracy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1696.

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. DAVIS of Illinois. 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.

□ 1500

COMMEMORATING DEDICATION AND SACRIFICES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 116) commemorating the dedication and sacrifices of the men and women of the United States who were killed or disabled while serving as law enforcement officers, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 116

Whereas the well-being of all citizens of the United States is preserved and enhanced as a direct result of the vigilance and dedication of law enforcement personnel;

Whereas more than 700,000 law enforcement officers, both men and women, at great risk to their personal safety, serve their fellow citizens as guardians of peace;

Whereas these peace officers are on the front line in preserving the right of the children of the United States to receive an education in a crime-free environment, a right that is all too often threatened by the insidious fear caused by violence in schools;

Whereas 151 peace officers lost their lives in the line of duty in 2000, and a total of nearly 15,000 men and women serving as peace officers have made that supreme sacrifice;

Whereas every year, 1 in 9 peace officers is assaulted, 1 in 25 is injured, and 1 in 4,400 is killed in the line of duty; and

Whereas on May 15, 2001, more than 15,000 peace officers are expected to gather in the Nation's Capital to join with the families of their recently fallen comrades to honor those comrades and all others who went before them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) all peace officers slain in the line of duty should be honored and recognized; and

(2) the President should issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to honor and recognize such officers with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARR of Georgia). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 116, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the House consider H. Res. 116, legislation introduced by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), my colleague.

This rule commemorates the dedication and the sacrifice of the men and women of the United States who were killed or disabled while serving as law enforcement officers. By adopting H. Res. 116, the House will express its belief that all peace officers slain in the line of duty should be honored and recognized.

Further, Mr. Speaker, this resolution urges the President of the United States to issue a proclamation calling on all Americans to honor and recognize such officers with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

Mr. Speaker, every day more than 700,000 law enforcement officers risk their lives and their safety to protect us. They patrol our most dangerous streets, and they deal with the most violent elements of our society. Increasingly, law enforcement officers

are also called upon to preserve the right of our children to receive an education. They then pay a high price to defend all of our liberties.

As the resolution states, Mr. Speaker, 1 in 9 peace officers are assaulted every year; 1 in 25 are injured; and, even more sadly, 1 in 4,400 are killed in the line of duty.

In my own great State of Idaho, Mr. Speaker, we have lost 56 brave men and women in uniform who were protecting our families and our friends and our neighbors.

These, all of them, are heroes and they have put their lives at risk, put their families in danger, and have done something remarkable that we do not see too often today: They put society's safety ahead of their own.

Mr. Speaker, on June 17, 1988, Officer Linda Huff, an Idaho State Police Officer, was shot in the parking lot of her patrol station while walking to her car. The assailant fired 17 rounds from a high-powered hand weapon at point-blank range. She was able to return fire and injured her assailant before dying.

The injuries Trooper Huff inflicted on her assailant led to his eventual arrest. More recently, on January 3 of 2001, two more peacekeeping Idahoans lost their lives while serving a search warrant. Corporals Anderson and Moulson were both wearing bulletproof vests when they were met with gunfire from the suspect inside the home. Sadly, not only are these men and women protecting us; in that process, they have become targets themselves by the criminals.

Over 15,000 officers gather at our Nation's Capitol today to join with the families of these recently fallen comrades and recognize the supreme sacrifice that so many others have made in giving their last full measure.

The courage and sacrifice displayed by our law enforcement officers is being honored by Congress through the establishment of the National Law Enforcement Museum. This museum will ensure the stories of heroism and sacrifice of these police officers are always remembered.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this resolution to offer their votes, first, in appreciation to the fallen heroes, and, second, as a vote of confidence for those who still today serve.

This House should make plain its appreciation for the critical and often unappreciated sacrifices these men and women make in preserving the peace.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) for introducing this resolution honoring our law enforcement personnel.

Mr. Speaker, the first recorded law enforcement fatality in the performance of duty in this country occurred on May 17, 1792. The officer, Isaac Smith, a sheriff's deputy in New York City, was shot to death while attempting to make an arrest.

Since that time, more than 15,000 other officers have been killed in the line of duty, and today roughly 740,000 officers continue to put their lives on the line for the safety and protection of others.

May 15 is Peace Officers Memorial Day, and it is fitting that this resolution, honoring the men and women of this country who were killed or disabled while serving as law enforcement officers, be brought before this body today.

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics in 1997, there were 31.3 million crimes committed in the United States, an average of one crime every second. That is how often law enforcement officers put their lives on the line; every second of every hour they are on duty protecting the American people. And so it is for this reason that in 1984, Congress authorized the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

The memorial honors Federal, State and local law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty and recognizes the service and sacrifice of all officers.

Completed and dedicated in 1991, the memorial, which is located here in Washington, D.C., has the names of more than 15,000 officers who have been killed in the line of duty inscribed on its blue-gray marble walls.

The names of seven fallen officers from Illinois were added to the memorial this past Sunday. Of those, Roy Costello, John Kearney, and Alane Stoffregen were from the Chicago Police Department.

Their watch over the city ended at various times: Mr. Costello in 1945; Mr. Kearney in 1909; and Ms. Stoffregen last year. But they served one common purpose: to keep the district that I represent safe.

Mr. Speaker, I salute them and those that serve today for their dedication and commitment.

Since 1854, a total of 417 Chicago police officers have lost their lives while serving our communities. For 40 years, the Chicago Police have held the St. Jude parade to honor fallen police officers of the previous year. More than 8,000 participants, including law enforcement officers and employees, marched the streets of Chicago.

This year's march honored 30 fallen officers, including the last officer killed in action, James Camp, who was shot while investigating a car theft.

Soon a museum will be built near the memorial to tell the story of law enforcement's proud history and to serve

as a research repository to promote law enforcement safety.

The memorial, the future museum, and this resolution will ensure that the heroism and sacrifice law enforcement officials make every day will be remembered and revered, so I would urge all Members to give support to this resolution.

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

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY).

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER) for yielding the time to me.

Mr. Speaker, law enforcement officials from around the country have come in these last few days and today to Washington, D.C. to commemorate and honor fellow peace officers slain in the line of duty.

The National Peace Officers Memorial Day serves as a solemn reminder of the sacrifice and commitment to safety that police officers make on our behalf. The National Peace Officer Memorial Resolution, H.R. 116, which is cosponsored by 81 of my colleagues, expresses the gratitude of the House of Representatives for the work that these officers perform.

Law enforcement officers face unprecedented risks while protecting our communities and our freedoms. Today over 700,000 men and women place their lives at risk to serve as protectors of law and order.

Throughout U.S. history, more than 15,000 men and women serving as peace officers have sacrificed their life for their Nation and community. In the year 2000 alone, 151 Federal, State and local law enforcers gave their lives in the line of duty. To date, 54 have died in 2001; 3 of these 54 come from my home State of Colorado.

Law enforcement officers face enormous risks while protecting our neighborhoods, our families, our freedoms; yet there is often an attitude of indifference. Every community has been impacted by the work of officers, yet most citizens have little direct contact with peace officers. Therefore, the sacrifices of these brave Americans go unnoticed and often underappreciated.

Mr. Speaker, without the service of peace officers, our society is left unprotected. Law enforcement officers deserve to be recognized and honored for their work, their dedication, their sacrifice, and, yes, Mr. Speaker, their bravery in defense of our society.

I hope my colleagues will join me in expressing our appreciation to all peace officers and paying tribute to those slain in the line of duty and to their surviving families by supporting H. Res. 116.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), one who knows exactly what it means and what it is like to be a law enforcement official himself.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding the time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this resolution in honor of law enforcement officers who were killed or disabled in the line of duty. I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) for sponsoring this important legislation and to all of those who cosponsored it to make it a reality here today.

Before coming to Congress in 1993, I served as a police officer for 12 years, both as a city police officer and as a Michigan State trooper. I have known personally too many officers who have been disabled or who have given their lives for the people they serve.

Each of us today understand the importance of the House of Representatives in undertaking this resolution to honor law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. In this past year it has been 151 men and women.

We do not forget those officers who died in previous years. Mr. Speaker, in my case, I specifically think back about the funerals and where I was honor guard for the funerals of Darrell Rantanen of the Gladstone Post back in about 1974, or Craig Scott of the Lansing Post who died in 1983. Those officers died doing their job just like law enforcement officials do day in, day out.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, probably each one of us can name an officer that was killed in the line of duty either in our home districts or even here in the Capitol, which happened in 1998 with the deaths of Capitol Police Officers Chestnut and Gibson.

We do not forget the extreme sacrifice our Nation's law enforcement and public safety officers make to our communities and to the Nation every day.

This legislation, as simple as it is, recognizes the very important value our government places on the work of the men and women who serve us each day. It is important that we take this step this week to show our respect and recognition for the jobs that police officers do every day, in every town, in every township, and every county in America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in support of this resolution. It is the least we can do for those who work with us and work for us every day in this great Nation.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply say that when one gives of themselves and gives of their life, they have given the best that they have had to give, and I would urge support for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1515

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the remarks of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) for

introducing this important piece of legislation and for his efforts to bring it to the floor and see it through its passage. I wanted to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), of the Committee on Government Reform, and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH), chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization, and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), ranking members, for working expeditiously for bringing this resolution to the floor.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me just remind everyone that it is our law enforcement officers that provide for the construction of the community, provide for its safety. They are, indeed, community builders. It reminds me of a poem that I learned many years ago, and I should like to offer it in closing, Mr. Speaker.

It goes like this: "I saw a group of men in my hometown. I saw a group of men tearing a building down. With a heave and a hoe and a mighty yell, they swung a beam, and a side wall fell. And I said to the foreman, 'Hey, are these men skilled, you know the kind that you'd hire if you wanted to build?' He said, 'Why no indeed. To tear down a building, common labor is all I need. With common labor, I can tear down in a day or two what it took a builder 10 years to do.' So I thought to myself as I walked away, which of these roles am I going to play."

Mr. Speaker, men and women in law enforcement and in uniform today that build our communities deserve the vote, and I urge the Members to provide their vote and their support.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution and join Americans across the country today in honoring those officers who have died or who were disabled in the line of duty. South Texans appreciate those men and women who walk that thin blue line every day.

As a former law enforcement officer, I have an intimate understanding of situations that can turn dangerous or deadly in a moment. The men and women who police our communities walk that line that separates the good guys from the bad guys. The work we ask our police officers to do is dangerous, dirty duty.

What people do not understand very often is that it is the inherent risk of what we might have to do that makes law enforcement so dangerous. We see the best and worst of our fellow human beings. It is not our job to judge them. That task is reserved judge and jury. Our job is merely to treat everyone equally.

Enforcing the law is a hard job. When people do something wrong, their first instinct is to find fault with the person who catches them. So being the guardian of our laws is never a simple endeavor. But in the end, it is the enormous satisfaction of protecting our neighborhoods and families that makes walking that line worth all the danger and criticism. It is the laughter of safe children, or the gratitude of someone whose life or property we protect, that makes doing this job enormously satisfying.

There are several South Texans who will be honored this week. Officers who made the supreme sacrifice include: Enrique L. Carrizalez,

Alfred Walter Basler, David Rucker, Susan Lynn Rodriguez, Ricardo Guillermo Salinas, Joseph Moon, Juan Prieto, Dan Bock, Roy Smith, John Sartain, and Ruben Almanza. These people are examples of the message set forth by Jesus Christ in John 15:13: "Greater love hath no one than this: than to lay down one's life for his friends."

Let us not forget the sacrifice made on our behalf right here in this building; our own Capitol Police Officers Chestnut and Gibson died defending Members of Congress and the public who populate this building. The House of Representatives joins families and communities across the nation to remember those members of the force who are no longer with us, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

For the sacrifices to ensure the rule of law, the officers we honor today and their families have the eternal gratitude of a grateful nation. While today we remember and reflect on the last full measure of devotion of these brave peace officers, let us do better than that by remembering their sacrifice and respecting the danger our officers face each and every day on our behalf every other day of the year.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 116, to acknowledge the dedication and sacrifices of the men and women of the United States who were killed or disabled while serving as law enforcement officers. It is fitting that we acknowledge and commend the courage and dedication shown by our law enforcement officers who have given their lives for their fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, sadly in the past year, 150 law enforcement officers gave their lives in the performance of their duty. In my own district, although we have been fortunate not to have lost officers in the line of duty in the past year I pause to remember and recognize Randy Stevens, Steven Hodge, Richard Callwood, Dexter Mardenborough, Wilbur Francis, Allen William, and Patrick Sweeney who were all killed as they sought to keep the streets and communities of the Virgin Islands safe.

Mr. Speaker it was President Kennedy, who approved House Joint Resolution 730 in October 1962, which proclaimed May 15 of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the Week of May 15th Police Week. Our Police Officers are the defenders of our communities because they bravely protect us from mortal dangers, in some cases at the cost of their own lives. For that we owe them all our deepest gratitude and respect. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H. Res. 116.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I support H. Res. 116. It is a long-awaited tribute to the hard working law enforcement community members.

Countless law enforcement men and women daily dedicate their lives to our country's protection. They face unbelievable danger to say nothing of the sacrifices: death, injury, disability and family stress. We must finally recognize their dedication and commitment to our communities, families and children.

They not only deserve our support and gratitude, but they also deserve protection under the law. That is why I cosponsored H.R. 218, the Community Protection Act. This bill, supported by police nationwide, allows law enforcement officers to carry concealed weapons. They need this as criminals know who the officers are, who their families are and where they live. Very simply: law enforcement officers need protection both on and off duty.

When law enforcement officers begin their day, the risk and danger are unknown. I cannot imagine a more unsettling feeling for both the officer and his or her family.

Therefore, I honor law enforcement officers nationwide, particularly those who serve Long Island.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 116, honoring law enforcement officers who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty. Often, the immeasurable contributions of our nation's law enforcement officers go unnoticed. The establishment of a Peace Officers Memorial Day would serve as a powerful tribute to slain officers as well as to those who continue to risk their lives each day to make our communities safe.

In one of the communities I represent, Glendale, California, four police officers and one sheriff's deputy have been killed in the line of duty. Many more have suffered work-related injuries and illnesses that have contributed to early deaths. This ultimate sacrifice deserves honorable recognition.

One of these fallen heroes is Charles A. Lazzaretto, a Glendale Police Officer, who was killed in the line of duty only four years ago. Chuck was born on October 5, 1966 and spent his early childhood living with his family in the California communities of Walnut and Montebello. In 1982, the Lazzaretto family moved to Burbank where his father served as city manager. While attending Glendale Community College in the mid-1980s, Chuck was appointed as a campus public safety officer and subsequently promoted to the rank of sergeant. In 1985, he volunteered for the United States Marine Corps Reserves and attended Officer Candidate School.

Chuck joined the Glendale Police Department on May 3, 1987 where he was appointed as a reserve police officer. In 1991, he received the rank of officer, working assignments in the juvenile, burglary, auto theft, arson, and robbery/homicide areas. Chuck's favorite pastime was spending time with his family. He often spoke of his love for his wife and two sons, Andrew and Matthew, as well as his parents and three brothers. Chuck was a community leader and family role model.

Police officers touch the lives of so many Americans. It is a long overdue tribute that we commemorate the courage and spirit of our nation's law enforcement officers with this resolution. I would also like to add my voice in support of H.R. 1727, which assists the families of those killed in the line of duty. May our fallen heroes and their families find solace in the national recognition of their sacrifice.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARR of Georgia). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 116, 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. OTTER. 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.

FALLEN HERO SURVIVOR BENEFIT FAIRNESS ACT OF 2001

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1727) to amend the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 to provide for consistent treatment of survivor benefits for public safety officers killed in the line of duty, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. R. 1727

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fallen Hero Survivor Benefit Fairness Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. CONSISTENT TREATMENT OF SURVIVOR BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

Subsection (b) of section 1528 of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-34) is amended by striking the period and inserting ", and to amounts received in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2001, with respect to individuals dying on or before December 31, 1996."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD).

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

Mr. Speaker, we cannot be considering this important legislation on a more appropriate day. Today is Peace Officers Memorial Day. Each year, on May 15, America honors the men and women in law enforcement who have given their lives to keep the American people safe in their communities and on their streets. More than 15,400 brave public safety officers have made the ultimate sacrifice since our Nation was founded.

We just considered a resolution honoring these fallen heroes. Now it is time to honor our public safety officers killed in the line of duty by offering tangible help to their loved ones left behind. This is exactly what the legislation before us does.

The Fallen Hero Survivor Benefit Fairness Act provides tax-free benefits to families of all public safety officers killed in the line of duty regardless of when the officer was killed. This bill, Mr. Speaker, includes law enforcement officers, firefighters, rescue squads, ambulance crews and employees working in disaster or emergency areas.

Under present law, a gross inequity exists because survivor benefits are treated differently, depending on when the public safety officer died. Currently, survivor benefits are tax free only if a public safety officer died in the line of duty after December 31, 1996.

This inequity, Mr. Speaker, arose from the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997