

fall of the Shah. At that time I can remember Iranians who told other Iranians to not make the comments because we were obviously American in our look. I want to thank those people that helped thousands of us to not have the harassment. I have been in those shoes, in a sense, and we have to just I think as Americans, Mr. Speaker, put ourselves in the shoes of these Americans of Arab descent, and I think this message will go out. I hope the media also, I say to the gentleman, keep hammering this in, that our country was founded on fairness and freedom that has been so eloquently expressed here tonight.

I thank the gentleman for doing something good and right for the people of this country.

□ 0140

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for adding to what I think has been a very extraordinary dialogue here this evening on something that is very fundamental to what we are about as a country, and that is the words that not only the gentleman shared with us here this evening, but the words of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) and others who referred to the notion of tolerance, justice, liberty, union, and peace. These are all ideals that we cherish deeply in our Nation.

I am so proud of the folks who came here this evening to speak and to make that differentiation that is so important to so many millions of Americans today who have lived in fear as a result of the actions that have been taken against their brothers and sisters.

Mr. Speaker, let me just end with this. The Prophet Mohammed has taught that God does not judge according to our bodies or appearances, but he looks into our hearts, he scans our hearts, and looks into our deeds.

The holy Qu'ran teaches "Oh, Mankind, we created you from a single soul, male and female, and made you peoples and tribes so that you may come to know one another," so that we may come to know one another.

As leaders and as Members of Congress, if we could take the message that we articulated so well this evening and spread that throughout our country over these next days and weeks and months, I think we will have done a good service. When the world watched our national prayer service earlier today, as many alluded to in their speeches on the floor today, they heard the healing words of many faiths: a Muslim Iman, a Jewish rabbi, and Christian clergy, Mr. Speaker.

These Americans, like the rest of the world, all worship God in their own way, but the common faith they share, what we have witnessed in the torrent of goodness this week, the neighbors helping neighbors, strangers helping strangers, is that hate can never conquer our Nation's spirit. That is the common faith that they share, that hate can never conquer our Nation's spirit.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, this week, thousands of people in New York and Washington lost their lives in a brutal assault on our Nation that was a calculated strike at the heart of our freedom and national unity. Millions of Arab Americans, South Asian Americans and American Muslims around the country have shared our sorrow and outrage at Tuesday's terrorist attacks. They have donated their blood, their money, their food and their time to the rescue and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Now these same individuals who have mourned and prayed with us have come under suspicion by their neighbors and the threat of additional violence in the form of hate crimes at their homes, schools, community centers and mosques. As a part of our effort to protect America from violence, we must unequivocally condemn the attacks against these groups and pledge to protect their civil rights and civil liberties.

My district is home to one of the largest Arab and Muslim communities in the country. It is vital that we distinguish the beliefs of these Americans from the perpetrators of Tuesday's violence, and recognize that American Muslims share our values and contribute significantly to our communities. If we fail to do so, then we will have seriously undermined freedom—the same principle we find ourselves vigorously defending in the wake of Tuesday's attacks.

All Members should stand to condemn any acts of bigotry, violence or discrimination against Arab Americans, South Asians and American Muslims and call upon Americans of every faith and heritage to stand together in this time of national crisis. We must pledge that in our pursuit of national security government agencies will work to avoid activities that encroach upon the civil rights and civil liberties of citizens or legal residents of the United States.

As we should have learned from the shameful history of internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, the civil rights and civil liberties of discrete groups of minorities should be specially considered during times of domestic and international turmoil. Our sense of community with fellow Americans of Arab and South Asian descent and those of the Muslim faith should not be counted as another casualty of Tuesday's senseless violence.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their time this evening, and I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 227

Whereas all Americans are united in condemning, in the strongest possible terms, the terrorists who planned and carried out the attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, and in pursuing all those responsible for these attacks and their sponsors until they are brought to justice and punished;

Whereas the Arab-American, South Asian-American, and American Muslim communities are a vital part of the Nation;

Whereas on September 12, 2001, in a mass for the Nation and the victims of the ter-

rorist hijackings and attacks, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the Archbishop of Washington, D.C., reminded all Americans in prayer that "we must seek the guilty and not strike out against the innocent or we become like them who are without moral guidance or direction";

Whereas the heads of State of several Arab and predominantly Muslim countries have condemned the terrorist attacks on the United States and the senseless loss of innocent lives; and

Whereas vengeful threats and incidents of violence directed at law-abiding, patriotic Americans of Arab or South Asian descent, particularly the Sikh community, and adherents of the Islamic faith have already occurred: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) declares that in the quest to identify, bring to justice, and punish the perpetrators and sponsors of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, that the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans, including Arab-Americans, American Muslims, and Americans from South Asia, should be protected; and

(2) condemns any acts of violence or discrimination against any Americans, including Arab-Americans, American Muslims, and Americans from South Asia.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 days within which to revise and extend and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res 227.

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

There was no objection.

AMENDING IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT TO PROVIDE PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR ADMISSION OF "S" VISA NON-IMMIGRANTS

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1424) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide permanent authority for the admission of "S" visa non-immigrants, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) for a comment on the bill.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, this issue comes before us at a very appropriate time. It was about 2 days ago, maybe 3 days ago now considering the time is after midnight, authority ran out for our government, through the Attorney General, to be able to bring in alien witnesses for cases involving terrorists, of

all things; meaning that when the Attorney General, the Justice Department, and the intelligence communities of our government were able to mount a case against terrorists, so appropriate in view of the events of the past week, that they could bring in people with special information under what was called the "S" visa, a special program to permit aliens to come in for the specific purpose of providing information and testifying, as it were, in these cases constructed by our Justice Department against terrorists.

That authority has run out, and it ran out almost immediately after the events took place in the Pentagon and in New York. So we have to reinstate it as fast as possible. That is why we are here tonight, because now it becomes even more urgent that we be in a position to be able to authorize the Attorney General to continue building the cases against these new terrorists now and others yet to come, we hope not, which we will do everything we can to prevent, but we must reinstate the authority for these special visas, these "S" visas that would permit this extra arm of law enforcement to work its will.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Continuing to reserve my reservation of objection, Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for bringing this important initiative to the floor of the House tonight, particularly with the great need that we have. It is obvious that we are in a time deep of sorrow.

And Congress continues and will continue to seek all possible avenues which would help provide assistance to the American public in our time of need.

This legislation, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS), the chairman has indicated, is appropriate as the U.S. attorney and the Attorney General are looking to bring solution to the heinous acts that occurred this week.

The Violent Crime Control Act of 1994 created the "S" nonimmigrant visa classification. We need to restore this visa which expired on September 12, 2001. Without this legislation, law enforcement will not be able to bring in foreign nationals who may be able to provide their needed information. It is well known that the search for the perpetrators of the heinous acts that occurred on September 11, 2001, is an international search.

Right now, the number of visas to bring in individuals are limited, 200 visas are for those who provide critical information about crimes. Fifty visas are specifically devoted to those who can provide critical information about terrorism. An application for the "S" visa must be made by a Federal, State or local law enforcement agency or by a court, and once an individual enters on an "S" visa, he or she is admitted for the purpose of cooperating with law enforcement.

This is crucial inasmuch as our Attorney General and all of the addi-

tional officials are looking to bring some resolution, great resolution to this enormous tragedy. These visas are particularly necessary because many of these people are in danger in their home countries after they have cooperated with an investigation or testified in a criminal proceeding.

There is much that this Nation has to do to, ultimately, in our future to bring closure to the terrible loss of life. In order to do this expeditiously, we need the insight of these individuals around the world who will come and testify and bring evidence so that we can put an end to these evil acts.

This legislation, I believe, is important, and so the objection that I have expressed is one that I am willingly now prepared to withdraw and ask that my colleagues do support this legislation so that we can move expeditiously in what we need to do to solve the terrible acts that occurred this week.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

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

SECTION 1. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR ADMINISTRATION OF "S" VISA NONIMMIGRANTS.

Section 214(k) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(k)) is amended—

- (1) by striking (2);
- (2) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), respectively; and
- (3) in paragraph (4)(E) (as redesignated), by striking "paragraph (4)" and inserting "paragraph (3)".

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1424, the Senate bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

TERRORIST VICTIMS FLAG MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H.Res. 239), providing Capitol-flown flags to each surviving victim, and the family of each deceased victim, of the terrorist attacks which occurred on September 11, 2001, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) for an explanation of the resolution.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is here on behalf of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the ranking member of the Committee on House Administration, and myself.

This resolution would authorize funds for the provisions of flags that have been flown over the great Capitol to the surviving victims and the families of those who lost their lives in the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

Pursuant to this resolution, those who were injured or lost a loved one in these hideous attacks would be entitled to receive, at no cost, the United States flag. I believe all Members will agree that provisions of the flag, what we believe in the flag as a symbol of our country and to give that is the least we can do to show our support for those tragically affected by these barbaric acts.

□ 0150

Mr. Speaker, as we stand here tonight, behind you is our flag, which is the greatest symbol of our country. And as we have the energetic give and take of public debate on the floor of this Chamber to do our duty, to represent freedom, to represent our constituents and our very American way of life, we recognize, I know, that we could not be here to have our debates and our agreements and our disagreements if it were not for the veterans of our country, who from the beginning of our revolution up through today, as our military stands ready always, as our troops are overseas in situations that put them in harm's way, and we always know through all of this that the colors do not run on that flag and neither have our veterans.

I mention the veterans because they are so important to us. Mr. Speaker, I believe also we should mention that we realize that somewhere in this tragic amount of individuals who have lost their lives, there are veterans; but we also recognize in fact that there are nonveterans that have also in fact lost their lives. And it is fitting that those targeted, whether veterans or nonveterans, should receive in tribute the symbol of our great Nation, the American flag, that has been flown across the United States Capitol, the structure that houses our great institutions of democracy.

Tragically, the victims of this savage attack are numerous. Though there are many victims, each should be honored. Every single one of them. This resolution will permit Members to show that they, this Congress, and our country mourn the loss deeply of our fellow citizens and we are in solidarity with those that have had the ultimate price