

There was no objection.

**HONORING THE UNITED STATES
CAPITOL POLICE FOR THEIR
COMMITMENT TO SECURITY AT
THE CAPITOL**

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 309) honoring the United States Capitol Police for their commitment to security at the Capitol.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 309

Whereas the Capitol is an important symbol of freedom and democracy across the United States and throughout the world, and those who safeguard the Capitol safeguard that freedom and democracy;

Whereas millions of people visit the Capitol each year to observe and learn the workings of the democratic process;

Whereas the United States Capitol Police force was created by Congress in 1828 to provide security for the Capitol;

Whereas today the United States Capitol Police provide protection and support services throughout an array of congressional buildings, parks, and thoroughfares;

Whereas the United States Capitol Police provide security for Members of Congress, their staffs, other government employees, and many others who live near, work on, and visit Capitol Hill;

Whereas the United States Capitol Police have successfully managed and coordinated major demonstrations, joint sessions of Congress, State of the Union Addresses, State funerals, and inaugurations;

Whereas the United States Capitol Police have bravely faced numerous emergencies, including three bombings and two shootings, one of which, in 1998, tragically took the lives of Private First Class Jacob "J.J." Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson;

Whereas the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, have created a uniquely difficult environment for the United States Capitol Police;

Whereas the United States Capitol Police responded to this challenge quickly and courageously, including by facilitating the evacuation of all of the buildings under their purview, as well as the perimeter thereof; and

Whereas the United States Capitol Police have instituted longer shifts, requiring that officers work substantial overtime each week to ensure the continued protection of the Capitol: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors and thanks the United States Capitol Police for their outstanding work and dedication during a period of heightened security that began on September 11, 2001.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise here today with my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS), for consideration of H. Res. 309, a resolution honoring the United States Capitol Police for their commitment to the security of the Capitol, the public and the employees and Members of Congress. Their unwavering dedication to protect and serve shall not go unnoticed.

Congress created the United States Capitol Police force in 1828 to provide security for the Capitol. Since inception of the Capitol Police, their officers have courageously and successfully protected the Capitol, and the people and buildings that surround this symbol of freedom and democracy. The U.S. Capitol, which is simultaneously a national shrine, a tourist attraction and a working office building, imposes challenging security requirements.

Since the September 11 tragedy, the Capitol Police have been placed under a tremendous strain to implement the increasing number of important security enhancements that have been instituted. Working 6 or 7 days straight with 12 hour shifts, the United States Capitol Police deserve a great "thank you."

In addition, when the House of Representatives relocated to the General Accounting Office, the Capitol Police protected us there as well. We know this was not an easy task, and we truly appreciate their service.

Mr. Speaker, their valor has not come easily. The United States Capitol Police have faced several emergencies, three bombings and two shootings, one of which took the lives of Private First Class Jacob "JJ" Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson. I want to extend our appreciation of their commitment to protect and serve this institution.

Last year more than 2 million tourists visited the Capitol complex, which is comprised of 19 buildings. At the same time, the Capitol hosted more than 1,200 American and foreign dignitaries and 1,000 special events and was the site of nearly 500 scheduled demonstrations. In addition to lawmakers and their staffs, a sizable number of journalists, lobbyists and service personnel also work within the Capitol complex.

Achieving a secure environment for the Capitol complex, while still maintaining an atmosphere of openness, has become increasingly challenging in recent years. Both the potential threats to the Capitol and the number of people entering the area every day have grown dramatically. The men and women of the United States Capitol Police risk their lives every day for the safeguarding of the Capitol.

Again, our thanks go out to you, our officers, our protectors and our friends.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), the sponsor of the resolution.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 309, legislation which I introduced to honor the United States Capitol Police. I would like to thank our lead Republican co-sponsor, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), and also the leadership in

both parties, for bringing this important resolution to the House floor today.

The terrorist attacks of September 11 have created a uniquely difficult environment for the Capitol Police. New security measures have been implemented, requiring the police to work longer hours, sometimes 12 hours and longer a day, oftentimes 6 days a week.

The Capitol Police have had to go even further above and beyond the call of duty to protect Members of Congress, staff and many of our visitors. The Capitol Police have responded to the new security challenges on Capitol Hill, including the attacks on September 11 and the anthrax attacks, quickly and courageously. They have continued their fine tradition of serving the Capitol Hill community.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to have the opportunity to thank our Capitol Police for the tremendous job that they do every day, and especially since September 11. They truly are heroes, and we salute them today.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. I would like to commend the sponsor of the legislation, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) who just spoke, and thank her for her work on this.

This legislation honors the Capitol Police, who we all know and work with on a daily basis, for their outstanding work and dedication during the period of heightened security needs on the day of September 11, 2001, and thereafter. It really should not take a national emergency for us to thank those who serve and protect us on a day-to-day basis, but it is an important act to do so today.

The Capitol is an important symbol of freedom and democracy, across this country and throughout the world, and those who safeguard the Capitol safeguard that freedom and democracy. Thousands of people visit the Capitol each day to observe and learn the workings of a democratic process.

The horrific events of September 11 have created a difficult environment to work in, prompting extra alertness and some strain among Members, Staff and visitors. The Capitol Police Force has responded to this challenge quickly and courageously, especially during the evacuation of the Capitol complex during the attacks of September 11.

Many people like to boast about how many hours they work during the day, and we as elected officials and politicians put in a lot of hours during our day, sometimes 12 to 18 hours. I would challenge any people to try doing that for an extended period of time. It is personally wearing and draining. Our folks here in the Capitol Police have had to do 12 to 18 hour days, 6 to 7 days a week, for weeks on end, before we finally got some relief through the

bringing in of the National Guard folks.

One of the great benefits of being a Member of Congress is the chance to have access to the Capitol at all times. Many times we are working at some pretty weird hours. We have all been here at 3 a.m. in the morning, 6 a.m., 9 p.m., 2 p.m., 10 p.m., up until midnight, working. Among the granite walls and marble statues and the ghosts of the past history of this country stands a living memorial to freedom and democracy. Our first responders to our symbol of freedom are our Capitol Police.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the Capitol Police Force for their hard work in protecting the Capitol complex, staff, Members and visitors.

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

□ 1630

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I appreciate the work of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), the chairman of the committee, and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the ranking member who sponsored this bill, and I appreciate the way in which they are meeting the challenges that security poses within the Congress as well.

I rise in strong support of this resolution. It was passed in the Senate on October 9. It is especially appropriate for the House to consider it today, December 11, 3 months after the attack, particularly given the service that the Capitol Police have rendered to the Nation and to the Congress since then. The House certainly must not adjourn without honoring the Capitol Police for dedication and professionalism above what any of us could have asked. Indeed, the Capitol Police give "rising to the occasion" new meaning.

It would be difficult for the Capitol Police to improve upon the reputation that they have earned over the years, but somehow they have managed to do just that since September 11.

I know them perhaps as well as any Member because I live with them 7 days a week. I see them when I do my race walk on the weekends when the Senate and the House are deserted, and I see them on the streets of Capitol Hill, which they patrol. I sponsored Public Law 102-397, the Capitol Police Jurisdiction Reform Act, which expanded their jurisdiction for the first time. We have a long relationship and friendship with the Capitol Police and their union.

I am pleased that D.C.'s own National Guard has relieved the Capitol Police of the back-breaking, 12-hour days they have had to put in. I regret that the National Guard has had to do this, but I am pleased that the funding for additional personnel and police is now assured the Capitol Police.

I do want to set the record straight on an erroneous impression in a December 7 Washington Times column that indicated that I had criticized the Capitol Police for closing tours of the Capitol; also, that I had been pleased to have 24-hour protection of the Capitol Police. I am pleased to say I have never had and never have needed 24-hour protection; but if so, I know who would have been pleased to give it: the fine Capitol Police. The tours are controlled not by the Capitol Police, but by the Capitol Police Board.

I wrote a letter to the three members of the board, by name the Architect of the Capitol, and the two Sergeants at Arms. My letter was directed to them and to them alone. Indeed, I am grateful to the board that they have decided that there is a way to open this Capitol to tours and to keep it safe at the same time. I always knew the cops knew how to do that.

For the record, I want to submit my letter to the three board members into the RECORD and my letter to the Washington Times correcting them for the RECORD. I have nothing but praise and the highest regard for the Capitol Police. The Nation will know that is how the entire House and Senate regard them when this resolution justifiably passes today. I thank my colleagues for their work on this bill.

NORTON ASKS REVERSAL OF CAPITOL POLICE BOARD BY ELECTED OFFICIALS IF TOURS REMAIN CLOSED

WASHINGTON, DC.—Following the closing of tours of the Capitol as D.C. school children were about to be the first in line, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton today released a letter to the three-man Capitol Police Board that made the decision. She asked the two Sergeants-at-Arms of the Congress and the Architect of the Capitol to reconsider their decision and put them on notice that otherwise, she would appeal to House leaders and, if necessary, introduce a resolution. The Norton letter follows:

DECEMBER 5, 2001.

Hon. ALFONSO LEHARDT,
Senate Sergeant-at-Arms, Capitol,
Washington, DC.

Hon. WILSON LIVINGOOD,
House Sergeant-at-Arms, Capitol,
Washington, DC.

Mr. ALAN HANTMAN,
Architect of the Capitol, Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SIRs: I am deeply disappointed that you have decided once again to close tours of the Capitol, this time precipitously just before tours were to begin again after many weeks. I write now to ask you to reconsider this decision within the next week by finding ways to keep the Capitol safe while normal activities proceed and to inform you that if you are unable to do so, I intend to appeal your decision to the leadership of the Senate and the House, and, if necessary, to introduce an appropriate resolution.

Letters to the Editor
The Washington Times,
Washington, DC.

TO THE EDITOR: John McCaslin's December 7, Cops Can't Win column had to be trying hard to get the entire Capitol Police issue as wrong as he did on both of the points he made. (1) I never criticized the Capitol Police for closing Capitol tours. My letter of December 5, attached to a release from my office, was addressed to only the three officials

who made the decision, the Capitol Police Board consisting of the Sergeants-At-Arms of the House and Senate and the Architect of the Capitol. (2) I have never requested, never had, and hope never to need the excellent services of the Capitol Police for 24-hour security.

I have taken a special interest in the work of the Capitol Police ever since coming to Congress and have a very special affection for these men and women. With the strong support of the Capitol Police and their union, I wrote PL 102-397, the Capitol Police Jurisdiction Reform Act, which expanded their jurisdiction for the first time to include more than a few blocks around the Capitol.

These officers not only protect me as a member of Congress; they protect city neighborhoods. The Capitol Police deserve the nation's highest respect. They certainly have mine.

Sincerely,

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) for presenting the bill and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) on bringing this bill before our body. I would like to just add my personal 2 cents here.

The professionalism of the Capitol Police is above any that any of us I think have ever seen in State and local law enforcement throughout the country. Normally their job, until September 11, has involved balancing the tremendous public access to this building, and the people that work in it, against security. It requires a remarkable level of patience, charm, and very watchful eyes. But since September 11, what I particularly want to commend the Capitol Police for is the tremendous level of flawless security they provide this facility that has given each of us the peace of mind that our constituents have expected us to have to do our very best work. So I would like to join my colleagues in urging adoption of the resolution.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the operative clause of this resolution says simply that "the House of Representatives honors and thanks the United States Capitol Police for their outstanding work and dedication during a period of heightened security that began on September 11, 2001." I trust that all members will support this honor for the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police. They have certainly earned it. They continue to earn it at this hour, mere steps from this spot and all around Capitol Hill.

Congress established the Capitol Police during the administration of John Quincy Adams. Ponder how different the world was then, and how different the job of providing security for the Capitol would have been then.

In the last 173 years, the world has changed immeasurably, and so has the work of the Capitol Police.

In modern times, the police have had to cope with emergencies, bombings and shootings, including the tragic 1998 murders of officer J.J. Chestnut and Detective John Gibson, that remain so painfully fresh in our memories.

After that tragic event, Congress properly heightened Capitol security, adopting a posture that requires considerable additional manpower. Recent events have obviously underscored the need for more officers and greater security. Fortunately, additional resources are in the pipeline.

Congress has appropriated money to fund all the additional officers the Capitol police can hire and train during 2002, and supplemental funds have been provided to address needs identified since September 11.

Today, the Capitol police face evolving threats from those who, for whatever reason, wish our country harm.

What was unthinkable only a few weeks ago, has been done. We must remain vigilant and prepared as we work to rid the world of the scourge of terrorism.

We will continue to rely on the Capitol police as the first line of defense for the people's house and all who work and visit here.

The men and women of the Capitol police meet their challenges with courage and a level of professionalism not exceeded anywhere.

Since the dastardly attacks of September 11, Capitol police officers have worked long hours under adverse conditions. These men and women clearly represent the best that America has to offer.

I want to express my personal thanks for a job well done.

Men and women of the District of Columbia National Guard now ably assist our Capitol police. Congress likewise owes the guardsmen and women thanks for their assistance, and for giving our police much-needed relief.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the resolution. The police clearly deserve the honor. I applaud the gentlewoman from California [Ms. LEE] for introducing it, the chairman [Mr. NEY], the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. EHLERS], and of course my friend from Florida [Mr. DAVIS] for bringing it to the floor today.

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OTTER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H.Res. 309.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EHLERS. 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 the subject of House Resolution 309, the resolution just agreed to.

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

There was no objection.

CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY IN TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3370) to amend the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 to modify the revisionary interest of the United States in a parcel of property conveyed to the Traverse City Area School District in Traverse City, Michigan.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3370

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY IN TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN.

Section 1005(c) of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3957) is amended by striking "the Traverse City Area Public School District" and inserting "a public or private nonprofit entity for an educational or recreational purpose".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

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

Initially, I want to thank two fine Members that we will hear from later, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), for bringing this matter to our attention.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3370 is a bill that allows certain property conveyed to the Traverse City Public Schools in Traverse City, Michigan, to be used by a public or private nonprofit entity for an educational or recreational purpose.

Under the 1996 language that transferred the property to the Traverse City School District, the property reverts to the Federal Government if it is not used by the school district. The local YMCA has developed a plan to improve the property and construct a three-pool swimming facility on part of the property. The school district would then use the new fields and facility and the Coast Guard will be able to use the pool for winter training and rescue swimmers.

Without the amendments made by H.R. 3370, this worthwhile project would not be able to proceed. For this reason, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I might say to my colleagues, I know the Speaker referred to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) as being from Tennessee, and he would have been a good Tennessean. We would sure have accepted him. He is an outstanding Member of the House, and I am proud to be able to call him a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3370, a bill to clarify the revisionary interests of the United States Government and property conveyed to the Traverse City School District.

The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 provided for Coast Guard real property in Traverse City, Michigan, to be conveyed to the Traverse City School District. The school district has used the property for soccer fields for their youth. However, the revisionary clause in that act required the property to be used exclusively for educational purposes. Now the school district would like to enter into a joint venture with the YMCA for additional athletic facilities for the students and community.

Under the joint venture, the school district will provide the land, and the YMCA will provide the building. The school district will be able to use the indoor pool and other athletic facilities in the building for their school activities at no cost, and other members of the community will also be able to join the YMCA and use the facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this bill will help the community of Traverse City. I would like to commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) for his efforts on their behalf. I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 3370.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), a fine gentleman and a real fighter and street fighter in the House of Representatives.

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, first let me thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) for coauthoring this legislation with me and moving this bill along. He is on the floor here tonight and I am sure he will have some remarks, along with his son Andrew. Maybe we should let Andrew have his remarks on record, because at least he would be able to tell us the value of these soccer fields.

Mr. Speaker, back in 1996 we moved this land from the Coast Guard to Traverse City Area Public Schools to be used for soccer fields. It has been a great success. But as those soccer fields have been used more and more by over 3,000 students in the Traverse City area, we saw great potential in this property. By bringing the YMCA to build a new facility, which they need to do, by bringing the YMCA in, everybody will benefit even further, not only the school district, but the community as a whole, because they are going to put in three different swimming pools,