

But this is more than just bureaucrats spending money the wrong way. It is about defrauding our children and our schools. If it expects schools to be accountable, the Department has to be accountable. Secretary Paige must continue to stand up for children and oppose bureaucrats eager to waste money, education money, for their own personal gain. We need to get the money into the classroom where it belongs.

ADVOCATING INCREASED OPENNESS IN GOVERNMENT

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, with all that has been happening in the State of Texas, the Texas 51, the turmoil with people feeling that there is not an open process in the Texas legislature and why the House members there chose to send a message that we must open up our government, we find it interesting now that there is a report that the Department of Homeland Security is refusing to turn loose tapes that gave an indication of who requested an effort on the part of the Homeland Security agency of the United States Government to track the plane of State Representative Pete Laney in Texas.

We have got to have an open government, one that the people feel confident in and be able to know that we are not hiding something, not trying to keep secrets from the public. Let us open this process up and include all of the people in America so that they can have a voice not just here in the United States House of Representatives but in the State House of Representatives in Texas and every other State in our Union.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS LADY EAGLES

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of North Texas Lady Eagles for setting school history by winning the 2003 Sun Belt Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships. This win is especially sweet for these hard-working ladies. They won their first-ever women's outdoor conference track championship with 179.66 on their home turf, Fouts Field, in Denton, Texas.

Rick Watkins, the University's director of track, was also named the league's women's coach of the year for the third time in the last 4 years. The University of North Texas women won gold medals in three field events on the final day, with a total of five first-place finishes. A 1-2 finish in the women's shotput by Latrecia Taylor and Ciji Brooks provided the biggest boost for the Lady Eagles, with Taylor win-

ning the event with a school-record effort, and Brooks took second.

Lakisha Gentry recorded the second-longest javelin throw in the school. Ananka Clark raced to the second place in the 100- and finished third in the 200-meters. Tiffanie Jordan won the women's triple jump by more than a foot. Rhonda Williams won the long jump.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring these with young ladies and congratulating them on a season of hard work and commitment.

WORLDCOM/MCI

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to bring an urgent matter to the attention of my colleagues in the House. After recording the largest corporate fraud in United States history, costing thousands of jobs and \$176 billion in losses to investors, representing three times that of Enron, WorldCom is back, just rebranding themselves to their former name MCI.

As a supporter of reforming our bankruptcy laws, I am shocked how MCI or any other company can be rewarded for cooking the books, cheating and stealing, and stand to gain by their criminal behavior. Reorganization under the bankruptcy laws should not apply when the assets are the product of criminal activities. Bankruptcy should not be the vehicle for laundering stolen goods. This is the case with MCI, even though they have changed their name and recently rolled out a new marketing campaign to distance themselves from their "criminal stigma." What an artificial advantage for MCI, our bankruptcy laws.

In conclusion, here is an idea how MCI can market themselves. They can market by saying: MCI stands for massive corporate indiscrepancies.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL PRESERVATION AND RECOGNITION ACT OF 2003

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 330) to further the protection and recognition of veterans' memorials, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 330

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 "Veterans' Memorial Preservation and Recognition Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR DESTRUCTION OF VETERANS' MEMORIALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 65 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 1369. Destruction of veterans' memorials

"(a) Whoever, in a circumstance described in subsection (b), willfully injures or destroys, or attempts to injure or destroy, any structure, plaque, statue, or other monument on public property commemorating the service of any person or persons in the armed forces of the United States shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

"(b) A circumstance described in this subsection is that—

"(1) in committing the offense described in subsection (a), the defendant travels or causes another to travel in interstate or foreign commerce, or uses the mail or an instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce; or

"(2) the structure, plaque, statue, or other monument described in subsection (a) is located on property owned by, or under the jurisdiction of, the Federal Government."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 65 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"1369. Destruction of veterans' memorials."

SEC. 3. HIGHWAY SIGNS RELATING TO VETERANS CEMETERIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the terms of any agreement entered into by the Secretary of Transportation and a State under section 109(d) or 402(a) of title 23, United States Code, a veterans cemetery shall be treated as a site for which a supplemental guide sign may be placed on any Federal-aid highway.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (a) shall apply to an agreement entered into before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 330, the Senate bill currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 330, the Veterans' Memorial Preservation and Recognition Act of 2003. Attacks against Federal cemeteries and veterans' memorials uniquely affront the memory of those who have sacrificed for our freedom and undermine

our collective commitment to honor their service. The egregious nature of these crimes necessitates a swift and decisive Federal response.

S. 330 establishes a specific criminal penalty for the willful destruction of property commemorating service in America's Armed Forces. It provides that anyone who willfully injures or destroys or attempts to injure or destroy property that commemorates service in our Armed Forces shall be imprisoned for up to 10 years and fined for these acts of vandalism.

In 1997, Congress passed legislation that directed the United States Sentencing Commission to enhance penalties for the destruction of property on Federal cemeteries. However, unlike the earlier legislation, S. 330 specifically recognizes the abhorrent nature of these offenses by establishing a new Federal crime for injuring or destroying veterans' memorials. Its purpose is to stem the disturbing prevalence of vandalism at some of America's most sacred memorials.

In considering this legislation, I urge my colleagues to heed the admonitions of General John A. Logan's Memorial Day Order of May 5, 1868. Speaking to those who had fallen in America's defense, General Logan stated: "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All the consecrated wealth and taste of the Nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let no vandalism or avarice or neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten, as a people, the cost of a free and undivided Republic."

□ 1015

S. 330 was reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary without amendment and passed the full Senate under unanimous consent.

As our Nation prepares to honor its veterans this Memorial Day, I can think of few times in recent memory when this legislation would be more timely and appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD an exchange of letters between the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), and myself.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2003.

Hon. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House
of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SENSENBRENNER: I am writing with regard to S. 330, the Veteran's Memorial Preservation and Recognition Act of 2003. As you know, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure was named as an additional Committee of jurisdiction.

I recognize your desire to bring this important bill before the House in an expeditious manner. Accordingly, I will not exercise my

Committee's right to mark up the legislation. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, however, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure does not waive its jurisdiction over S. 330. In addition, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee reserves its right to seek conferees on provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for conferees on S. 330. I request that you include a copy of our exchange of letters in your Committee's Report on S. 330 and in the Congressional Record during consideration on the House Floor. Thank you.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2003.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: This letter responds to your letter dated May 19, 2003 concerning S. 330, the "Veterans' Memorial Preservation and Recognition Act of 2003."

I agree that the bill contains matters within the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's jurisdiction and appreciate your willingness to be discharged from further consideration of S. 330 so we may proceed to the floor. I acknowledge that by being discharged, your committee in no way waives its jurisdiction over these matters.

Pursuant to your request, a copy of your letter and this letter will be included in the Committee on the Judiciary's report on S. 330 and in the Congressional Record during House floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, Jr.,
Chairman.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of S. 330, the Veterans' Memorial Preservation and Recognition Act of 2003, and recommend its passage to my colleagues. This bipartisan legislation is designed to add increased protection to veterans memorials and enhance the recognition of veterans cemeteries. This bill is particularly timely shortly before Memorial Day and at a time when our military troops risked their lives on our behalf in Iraq.

Specifically, the legislation establishes criminal penalties for willfully injuring or destroying or attempting to injure or destroy any structure, plaque, statue, or other monument on public property commemorating the service of any person in the United States Armed Forces. The bill further requires the veterans cemeteries to be treated as sites permitting supplemental guide signs on Federal-aid highways.

The bill was introduced by the Senator from Colorado, Mr. CAMPBELL, on February 6, 2003, and passed the Senate by unanimous consent on March 27, 2003. I urge Members to support the bill.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 330, a bill to protect and recognize veterans' memorials. These memorials honor those brave men and women who have served in the military. They can be found in nearly every city and town across the country and it is important that Congress ensures that they are properly recognized and protected.

I'd like to direct my comments to one particular section of the bill. Section 3 of S. 330 allows a veterans' cemetery to be identified by a supplemental guide sign on any Federal-aid highway. It is my understanding that this section is not intended to circumvent the safety regulations governing the design and placement of highway signs as set forth in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (the Manual).

Sections 109(d) and 402(a) of title 23 of the United States Code provide authority for the Manual, which serves as the national standard for all signs, signals, pavement markings, and other traffic control devices used on all streets and highways in the United States. The Manual provides regulatory, warning, and guidance information to motorists and is vitally important to the promotion of safety on our Nation's highways. Among the provisions in the Manual are standards for sign design, sign size, letter size, letter style, retroreflectivity, sign location, and other characteristics that are crucial to ensuring highway safety.

It is my understanding that the wording in Section 3—"Notwithstanding the terms of any agreement entered into by the Secretary of Transportation and a State under section 109(d) or 402(a) of title 23, United States Code"—is not intended to remove the Manual's requirements regarding sign design, sign size, letter size, letter style, retroreflectivity, sign location and other characteristics that are important to promote the safety of motorists. Rather, S. 330 merely provides for the identification of a veterans' cemetery by a supplemental guide sign, one that complies with the Manual's requirements, on a Federal-aid highway.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 330.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 330.

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.

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 180) supporting the goals and ideals of "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week" and honoring the service of correctional officers and employees.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 180

Whereas the operation of correctional facilities represents a crucial component of the criminal justice system of the United States;

Whereas correctional personnel play a vital role in protecting the rights of the public to be safeguarded from criminal activity;

Whereas correctional personnel are responsible for the care, custody, and dignity of the human beings charged to their care;

Whereas correctional personnel work under demanding circumstances and face danger in their daily work lives; and

Whereas S. Res. 24 of the 108th Congress, as agreed to on March 12, 2003, designates the week beginning May 4, 2003, as "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week"; and

(2) honors all correctional officers and employees for their service to their communities, States, and the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. 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 H. Res. 180.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support House Resolution 180, honoring corrections officers and employees for the good work they do each and every day. This resolution passed the Committee on the Judiciary unanimously, and it is an appropriate expression of congressional support for this critical aspect of our criminal justice system.

These men and women work each day to protect society from the real threat of criminal activity. They risk their lives ensuring that we are safe. They maintain peace and order in a dangerous place, while at the same time ensuring the needs of one of the most difficult groups in society are addressed. It is not often that we get the opportunity to thank them for the good work they do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in fully supporting this resolution.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 180, introduced by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND), along with our colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN), and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN).

H. Res. 180 is a bipartisan resolution designed to honor correctional officers and employees by acknowledging and supporting the goals and ideals of National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. The resolution directly honors correctional workers at all levels, local, State and Federal, including psychologists, chaplains, teachers, and kitchen staff.

Correctional officers and employees play a vital role in protecting and promoting public safety. They work in our county jails, in our State prisons and Federal penitentiaries. They have a tough job to do in a tough environment. And with the emphasis that Congress and State legislators have placed on eliminating incentive programs for inmates, such as parole, good conduct credits and funding for college courses, that job has been made only tougher.

Recently, by reducing inmate jobs in the Federal prison industries program, even more pressure will be put on correctional officers to maintain a safe and productive environment for prisoners.

So it is fitting, Mr. Speaker, that we pause at this time to recognize and commend our correctional workers and employees for the very important job they do. To them we say thank you.

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

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, as we perhaps know, at the beginning of May we kicked off National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. It is in this week we recognize correctional officers and employees across the Nation and applaud their dedication and service to our country. They are often asked to work long hours serving the public, and in the past few years we have asked them to work even more difficult schedules.

Statistics from the Bureau of Justice indicate that we are housing more and more men and women in prisons and jails than ever before. As an aside, Mr. Speaker, prison overcrowding is another issue that warrants our consistent attention.

As we focus on taking the most dangerous elements of our society off the streets, it is the correctional officer and the employee upon whom we rely to maintain order and assure safety.

Correctional officers' and employees' daily duties to safeguard the public and the incarcerated are oftentimes dangerous. I gladly support H. Res. 180, which encourages the goals of the National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. This resolution recognizes the exemplary work done by correctional officers and the employees across the Nation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND), the sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, as a cochair of the Congressional Correctional Officers Caucus, I rise today to honor correctional officers and employees of correctional facilities across our country.

Earlier this month, correctional officers came here to Washington to celebrate National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. Awards were presented to officers whose exceptional service merited special recognition, and wreaths were laid in memory of fallen comrades who had made the ultimate sacrifice while on duty.

Correctional facilities are a critical component of our public safety and criminal justice systems. We rely on correctional facilities to do just that, correct the errant behavior of certain members of our society. But prisons and jails are more than just buildings. They are made up of correctional officers and other personnel who are highly trained to work in a challenging and often dangerous environment.

I worked for many years as a psychologist at a maximum security prison in Ohio, and the respect I gained for my coworkers during that time is enormous. First and foremost, correctional officers are public servants. The officers with whom I have had the honor of being acquainted give back to their communities in countless ways.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House of Representatives is joining together to honor these men and women who work for our government at the Federal, State, and local levels.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time. I would like to associate myself with the remarks just made by my colleague from the other side.

Mr. Speaker, correctional facilities obviously play a fundamental role in our justice system. As the gentleman said, they are much more than buildings. Without correctional officers, those buildings would be of little value.

The people that we are talking about are dedicated and hard-working professionals. They ensure the safety and the secure operation of our justice system every single day. It goes without saying that they have a difficult and very often dangerous job. They work in the most challenging of environments. They work with people who are already proven to have little regard for others,