

Boris Gryzlov reached out to me as soon as that attack occurred. In words that I can only describe as overtly emotional, he said Congressman WELDON, all of us in Russia share the grief that is being shared by the people of your Nation.

So to our friend Boris Gryzlov, who stands today as the Speaker of the Russian Duma, a close adviser to President Putin, and to President Putin himself, representing all of the people of Russia, America stands ready to pass this resolution, I hope with overwhelming support of both parties, because leadership comes from the most distinguished leaders on foreign affairs issues of this body, that we rise up and let the people of Russia know that they are truly our brothers and sisters.

We pray for those victims, we pray for those families, we pray for those young children. As a teacher myself, I cannot believe on the first day of school, which is a great day in Russia, as my friend and chairman outlined in his opening statement, that they would attack young Russian children, the most vulnerable of their society.

So, Mr. Speaker, I thank our colleagues, I look forward to working to pass this resolution, and, more importantly, I look forward to delivering this message in person when I arrive in Moscow before the end this week.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this tragedy brings the world's attention to a region of the globe that has been perhaps overlooked for too long, but it has also spurred debate about the next steps in an escalating conflict that transcends borders.

It should also galvanize debate about the threat that the world faces. As the bipartisan 9/11 Commission states, "The catastrophic threat at this moment in history is the threat posed by Islamic terrorism, especially the al Qaeda network and its affiliates and its ideology."

I believe this is what we are seeing in southern Russia. These are not criminals united by happenstance, but by militant Islam, united by ideology, doctrine and practice, its adherence drawn from Africa to Southeast Asia, from the Middle East to the Caucasus.

Al Qaeda's interest in the Caucasus is undisputed. Chechnya's lawless period of independence produced the conditions ripe for fomenting global jihad. Fighters, weapons, cash and ideology, much of it Saudi Wahabism, poured in from abroad.

Like al Qaeda, Chechen fighters have used front charities to secure funds. Benevolence International Foundation, whose assets were blocked by the U.S. Government for supporting al Qaeda, has also been found to support jihadists in Chechnya. In fact, evidence seized from Benevolence International indicates that it spent over 40 percent of its budget on Chechnya.

The bipartisan 9/11 Commission exposes other links, noting that several of the 9/11 hijackers, including Mohammed Atta, were headed to Chechnya to fight against the Russians. Only a chance meeting on that train in Germany with another terrorist caused the group to make the decision to travel to Afghanistan instead.

Several Chechens, including Shamil Basayev, believed to be the master mind of this school attack, received training in Afghan terror camps. Perhaps most telling, Afghanistan's Taliban was the only regime in the world to recognize Chechnya's independence in January of 2000 and to pledge it help in its fight against Russia.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on, but it is important to recognize these facts. It is important to recognize that this is the enemy that faces Russia, that faces the United States and that faces the world.

As I said earlier, many have commented on the Russian government's response to this war, to its policies in Chechnya and its anti-democratic actions. This is a debate we should have, but we should have this debate with a clear understanding of what the Russian people and what we are up against.

I urge the passage of this resolution.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and would like to thank my friend from California for introducing it. Just over a week ago, the civilized world agonized over the massacre of more than 300 Russian school children who were returning to school after summer vacation when Islamic terrorists took them hostage and ultimately, took their lives. This cowardly and inhumane act occurred just days after two other vile acts of terror—the bombing of two Russian airliners, which killed 89 innocent men, women, and children, and the Moscow subway bombing that killed nine.

Mr. Speaker, there is no denying that the situation in Chechnya is a complicated one. Despite the mutually destructive history of Russian-Chechen relations, the acts of terror that have been unleashed upon the Russian people are inexcusable, inhumane, and are representative of the evil that we face today in the War on Terror. The fact that those who carried out these brutal acts purposely picked children as their primary targets further illuminates their utter disregard for the rules of law and the norms of human conduct.

Today, as we express our solidarity with the Russian people, let us take time to remember the fact that the War on Terror is a transnational conflict that requires strong alliances among nations both large and small. The people of Russia have a friend in the United States of America. It is my strong belief, that the murderers who took the lives of children in Beslan share ties with others who seek to wreak havoc within our own borders. Let those who wish us ill know that the United States, Russia and our allies will stop at nothing to destroy the global network of Islamic fundamentalism and all other forms of terrorism.

As the United States House of Representatives expresses its solidarity with the Russian people, I would like to remind my colleagues

of the other victims of terrorism that the world has lost in recent years. People have mourned the losses of loved ones in Bali, Jerusalem, Madrid, Jakarta, New York, Washington, Baghdad, Kabul and various other places. May their memories and those of the children of Beslan, the passengers on the two aircraft and the people on the subway be the rallying cry for our ongoing struggle against terrorism.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 760.

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. LANTOS. 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 ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2004

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3478) to amend title 44, United States Code, to improve the efficiency of operations by the National Archives and Records Administration, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3478

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 "National Archives and Records Administration Efficiency Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF RECORDS RETENTION PERIODS.

(a) EXTENSION OF RECORDS RETENTION PERIODS BY REGULATION.—Section 2909 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "upon the submission of evidence of need,";

(2) by striking "and, in accordance with regulations promulgated by him," and inserting "and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: "The Archivist shall promulgate regulations in accordance with section 2104(a) of this title to implement this section."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (d) of section 3303a of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking the second sentence.

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY FOR RECORDS CENTER REVOLVING FUND TO BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE AND CARE OF UNIFORMS FOR RECORDS CENTERS EMPLOYEES.

Subsection (a) under the heading "RECORDS CENTER REVOLVING FUND" in title IV of the Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 (Public Law 106-58; 113 Stat. 460; 44 U.S.C. 2901 note), is amended by inserting after "expenses" in the first sentence the following: "(including expenses for uniforms or

allowances for uniforms as authorized by subchapter I of chapter 59 of title 5)".

SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO CHARGE FEES FOR PUBLIC USE OF FACILITIES OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **PRESIDENTIAL ARCHIVAL DEPOSITORIES.**—Subsection (e) of section 2112 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking "space" and inserting "space, or for the occasional, non-official use of rooms and spaces (and services related to such use).".

(b) **NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING AND OTHER BUILDINGS USED FOR RECORD STORAGE.**—Section 2903 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a)" before "The Archivist"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) When the Archivist considers it to be in the public interest, the Archivist may charge and collect reasonable fees from the public for the occasional, non-official use of rooms and spaces, and services related to such use, in the buildings subject to this section. Fees collected under this subsection shall be paid into an account in the National Archives Trust Fund and shall be held, administered, and expended for the benefit and in the interest of the national archival and records activities administered by the National Archives and Records Administration, including educational and public program purposes."

SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO FURTHER NARA PROGRAMS.

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—Chapter 21 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 2119. Cooperative agreements"

"(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Archivist may enter into cooperative agreements pursuant to section 6305 of title 31 that involve the transfer of funds from the National Archives and Records Administration to State and local governments, other public entities, educational institutions, or private nonprofit organizations (including foundations or institutes organized to support the National Archives and Records Administration or the Presidential archival depositories operated by it) for the public purpose of carrying out programs of the National Archives and Records Administration.

"(b) **LIMITATIONS.**—Not more than \$25,000 may be transferred under a cooperative agreement entered into as authorized by subsection (a). Not more than a total of \$75,000 may be transferred under such agreements in any fiscal year.

"(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than December 31st of each year, the Archivist shall submit to the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the provisions, amount, and duration of each cooperative agreement entered into as authorized by subsection (a) during the preceding fiscal year."

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"2119. Cooperative agreements."

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2009 FOR NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION.

Section 2504(f)(1) of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (N), by striking "and";

(2) in subparagraph (O), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end of the following new subparagraphs:

"(P) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

"(Q) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

"(R) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and

"(S) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2009."

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PUTNAM. 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.R. 3478, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, we have witnessed over the last several weeks in Florida just how quickly lives and property and years of work can be taken from us. Many are left with only memories in the wake of these storms, and I would like to thank President Bush and the Members of this House for the outpouring of assistance that we have received.

Our memories and the collective memory of our national life is what in part inspire us to move ahead and to rebuild in the face of tragedy. The custodian of our collective national memory is the National Archives, and I rise today to offer an amendment in the form of a substitute to H.R. 3478 to reauthorize an important part of that agency.

This legislation will reauthorize appropriations through fiscal year 2009 for the National Historic Publications to Records Commission, the eighth passage of this legislation since 1964. The NHPRC's mandate is to look outward, to provide assistance to non-Federal agencies, institutions and individuals committed to the preservation and use of American documentary resources.

The NHPRC remains today the only grant making organization, public or private, in the Nation whose only focus is the preservation of and increased access to American historical documentation in its myriad forms and formats, be it the quill pen or the computer.

Through its competitive grants, the NHPRC provides a kind of venture capital for the historical world, through which solutions to electronic records questions can be discovered and begin to be tested, and new initiatives and new projects in State and local government records, private archival institutions and documentary editions, can be launched and given vital support.

American history did not all happen in Washington. It has unfolded in every State and every locality, through private actions as well as those of the

government, and unless we safeguard historical records wisely, there will be gaping holes in our Nation's history.

Records created and maintained within each State are important to individuals and institutions in a democracy, not just national institutions, but government institutions at every level, as well as organizations in the private sector that have a great impact on American life.

The NHPRC safeguards holdings of the State and local archives, the university archival and manuscript collections and the documentary collections of libraries, historical societies and other cultural repositories, private and public.

They have revolutionized the study of American history. One of the Nation's leading historians has called this work the most important and lasting work of the 20th century, the most important work in the American history of the 20th century.

The NHPRC exists to stimulate the care and use of records that are beyond the NARA's jurisdiction. It does that by encouraging documentary work outside the Federal Government, with small grants to archival, historical and cultural organizations throughout our country. It is the only national funding agency that is directly addressing the challenges posed for recordkeeping and records preservation.

Among the types of grants that the commission makes are those designed to assist State and local governments with disaster preparedness to protect the vital records that document the rights and privileges of citizenship. We can attest to the need for that type of readiness in Florida.

Through grants, through working with State advisory boards and through contributing to funding partnerships, the NHPRC plays a critical role in promoting work to ensure that records of many kinds in many parts of the country will be safe and accessible for the scholars who need them.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census, which has jurisdiction over the National Archives, and as a citizen concerned about rights, accountability and history, I request that NHPRC be reauthorized to carry on its important work.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3478. This bill makes several changes to Title 44 of the U.S. Code that will improve the efficiency of the National Archives and Record Administration. My colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM), has done a terrific job of detailing those changes.

In addition, this bill reauthorizes the National Historic Publications and Records Commission, NHPRC, for 4 years at the current level of \$10 million.

I strongly support the reauthorization of the NHPRC. However, I am disappointed that we did not increase the authorization for this program. It is even more tragic that the administration has not fully funded the commission for 2005. The failure to fund this commission will result in the loss of important parts of the history of every State and local government in our country. Much of the good work funded by the commission will have to be put on hold because the administration cut \$7 million from the NHPRC budget.

My colleague on the other side of the aisle detailed how we need to preserve the documents in Florida even when we have catastrophes and hurricanes, and so forth. Let me describe just a few of the programs that have been supported by NHPRC in New York over the past several years.

The New York State archives in Albany was given assistance by the NHPRC to organize and make available materials of the effect of the World Trade Center disaster on the lives of New Yorkers. Channel 13, the local education station, was given funds to preserve shows of particular historical significance from the 1970s onward.

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The American Foundation For the Blind was provided funds to archive the records of Helen Keller. Hunter College received funds to arrange 15 collections of materials documenting the history and culture of Puerto Ricans.

In addition, NHPRC had provided funds to assist in preserving the papers of Alexander Hamilton; Aaron Burr; Samuel Gompers; John Jay; the slave diary of Elizabeth Drinker; Florence Kelley, the letters of this great settlement leader; and the writer and activist Harriet Jacobs, just to name a few. The list goes on and on.

NHPRC has also been at the forefront of research on preserving electronic documents. Long before most agencies knew they even had a problem, NHPRC was funding research on this important issue.

Electronic records present historical organizations with two quite distinct problems. First, the technological issues of preserving our electronic documents across time are extremely complex. The methods for creating these documents multiply yearly, as does the way in which these documents are stored. However, very little has been done to assure these documents can be read 10 years later. Secondly, electronic records have resulted in increasing both the volume of records created and the volume of records that historians want to keep.

Electronic records confront State and local archives and historical societies with the very same challenges as they do the Federal Government. The National Archives has spent millions of dollars on the Electronic Records Initiative, and real progress has been made in developing a system for preserving the electronic records of the

Federal Government. NHPRC has been one of the few places these State and local organizations could go to get help confronting this complex technological and historical problem. It should also be noted that NHPRC was one of the first Federal organizations to recognize the need for research on preserving electronic documents.

Mr. Speaker, absolutely every day in Washington, D.C., as we go about our business, we are reminded of our Nation's history. Buildings and documents are preserved and displayed for all to see. Every citizen deserves that opportunity, not just when they visit their Nation's Capital, but as they walk about the towns in which they live. NHPRC makes it possible for State and local governments to develop the tools and expertise to maintain their own history.

Even if NHPRC was fully funded at \$10 million, that would only be about \$200,000 per State. That does not go very far. As I have said at the outset, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the passage of this bill, and I hope that the chairman of the subcommittee will work with me and the gentleman from Florida (Chairman PUTNAM) to raise awareness of the many valuable programs sponsored by NHPRC so that we can increase the authorization level the next time that it comes around.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by saying that if we do not learn from our past, we may repeat the mistakes of those who went before us. If we do not preserve our past, we cannot learn from it, and each locality has their own unique circumstances and their own unique history. Maintaining our time capsule of government words and deeds is a fundamental responsibility of our government. This legislation is committed to that responsibility, and I urge my colleagues to join me and the chairman in supporting this.

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

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

I appreciate the support of the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and the hard work that the ranking member of this subcommittee, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), has put into this legislation; and I urge its passage.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3478, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to improve the efficiency of operations by the National Archives and Records Administration and to reauthorize the National Historical Publications and Records Commission."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ARCHIE SPIGNER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4632) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19504 Linden Boulevard in St. Albans, New York, as the "Archie Spigner Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4632

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

SECTION 1. ARCHIE SPIGNER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19504 Linden Boulevard in St. Albans, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Archie Spigner Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Archie Spigner Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 4632, a post office designation act sponsored by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS). The legislation before us honors Archie Spigner, a man who has been a political institution in Queens and indeed all of New York City for more than a quarter of a century.

Archie Spigner served a respected tenure on the New York City Council from 1974 until 2001. Mr. Spigner ultimately became the second highest ranking member of the council as he rose to the post of deputy majority leader. In addition, he served on the advisory board of the National League of Cities, an urban advocacy organization.

Mr. Speaker, I know the gentleman from New York considers Mr. Spigner a close friend and political ally. That is why I am pleased to join with him today in urging passage of H.R. 4632. The post office in the legislation is appropriately located within Archie Spigner's former district at Linden Boulevard and 196th Street in Queens.

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