

amended by striking “3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act” and inserting “September 30, 2007.”

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to commend my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Chairman YOUNG, Subcommittee Chairman SHUSTER and Subcommittee Democratic Ranking Member NORTON, for all of their work on this important bill. H.R. 4324, Predisaster Mitigation Act Reauthorization Act of 2005, provides funding for a competitive grant program to assist States and local governments in implementing cost-effective hazard mitigation activities that complement a comprehensive mitigation program.

The Predisaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM) will provide funds to states, and local governments and communities for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event. Funding these plans and projects reduces overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations. This program funds activities like, the seismic strengthening of buildings and infrastructure, the construction of levees and the building of “safe rooms” in houses and other structures to protect against high winds. It is important to note that this program complements another Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act post mitigation program—the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMPG) which provides funds to reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss or suffering in any area affected by a major disaster.

Over the last twenty-five years, this country has had over one thousand presidential disaster declarations in the United States and the Insular Territories. These disasters have cost our nation billions of dollars and taken an untold number of lives. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Rita and Wilma, we have all become acutely aware of the devastation natural disaster can bring. We know that these natural disasters will continue to occur and bring damage and destruction but we also know that mitigation programs like the Predisaster Mitigation Program will help save lives and property.

According to the Multihazard Mitigation Council of the National Institute of Building Sciences which conducted an independent study on the costs benefits of mitigation for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—mitigation saves lives and tax dollars. For every \$1 spent from the United States Treasury for mitigation, we will save \$3.65 for taxpayers when disaster strikes. Mitigation reduces property damage, reduces business interruption, reduces environmental damage and most importantly, it reduces societal losses, including causalities and homelessness. Moreover, the benefits of FEMA hazard mitigation grants significantly exceed their costs—by a 4 to 1 margin. In addition to providing broad-based benefits to society, FEMA hazard mitigation grants more than pay for themselves. Mr. Speaker, it is unmistakably clear, mitigation is essential to reducing the loss of lives and property in future natural disasters.

In October 2000, Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA), which reauthorized the Stafford Act and created several new programs. One of those new programs was a Predisaster Mitigation Program

that tasked FEMA with awarding grants to states on a competitive basis to implement predisaster mitigation plans. Again, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina as the Gulf Region begins the long and difficult process of rebuilding we can truly appreciate the importance of predisaster mitigation planning. Today, this bill extends the authorization of this program for another three years and directs the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to conduct a study on the program’s effectiveness.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this is a good bill that will save both lives, property and taxpayer funds. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the bill.

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

RESIGNATION AS CLERK OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am writing to tender my resignation as Clerk effective upon the appointment of my successor November 18, 2005.

It has been an honor to serve this Institution, its people and the Nation for more than 20 years. I leave knowing the incredible ability of the people who serve here and their commitment to the people they represent.

I will especially depart with a deep sense of admiration and respect for the individuals working in and with the Office of the Clerk. I wish to thank them for their efforts over the last seven years during my tenure as Clerk of the House.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT AS CLERK OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 208 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 75a-1), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker’s appointment as Clerk of the House of Representatives Mrs. Karen L. Haas of Maryland.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Under Clause 2(g) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Rep-

resentatives, I herewith designate Mr. Gerasimos C. Vans, Deputy Clerk, to sign any and all papers and do all other acts for me under the name of the Clerk of the House which he would be authorized to do by virtue of this designation, except such as are provided by statute, in case of my temporary absence or disability.

If Mr. Vans should not be able to act in my behalf for any reason, then Ms. Marjorie C. Kelaher, Assistant to the Clerk, should similarly perform such duties under the same conditions as are authorized by this designation.

These designations shall remain in effect for the 109th Congress or until modified by me.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. TOM DAVIS AND HON. FRANK R. WOLF TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH DECEMBER 6, 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 18, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM DAVIS and the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through December 6, 2005.

J. DENNIS HASTERT
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF OF STAFF OF HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Nicole Venable, Chief of Staff of the Honorable WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
November 18, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for documents issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

NICOLE VENABLE,
Chief of Staff.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2005

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday

rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, December 7, 2005.

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

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF TRANDAHL

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, obviously with the very exciting day that we have had, to the Clerk, my 1-hour Special Order changed to a 5-minute Special Order, now to a 1-minute.

I just want to say thank you for the work you have done. The 32nd Clerk of the House, a native of Spearfish, South Dakota, again over 20 years of service.

We had a great reception last night where your loyal supporters and friends and folks that have worked for you were there to say thanks for a tremendous effort. You give great credit to the professional staff and working in what has to be a very challenging environment, dealing with politicians and our whims and our foibles.

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We want to thank him for that. He has brought great credit to that in a long line of Clerks who served honorably, and we just wish for his successor great success and blessings as she takes on this great challenge in this new role.

BACKGROUND

32nd Clerk of the House.

Native of Spearfish, South Dakota.

Twenty years of House service.

Aide to: James Abdon (R-SD) in House and Senate; Virginia Smith (R-NE); Pat Roberts (R-KS); Committees on Appropriations and House Administration.

Assistant to the Clerk, Acting Chief Administrative Officer; Deputy Clerk; appointed Clerk December 1998 and elected Clerk 106th through 109th Congresses.

Graduate of University of Maryland.

Begins appointment as Executive Director of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation on November 21, 2005.

HIGHLIGHTS AS CLERK

Guided major House information technology initiatives to including introduction of XML technology to standardize creation and exchange of legislative information.

Oversaw creation and management of first permanent and professional House curatorial and archival services.

Oversaw flourishing of House Page Program with construction of new Page Residence Hall, and enhanced academic status and national recognition of the House Page School.

Instrumental in creation of House Office of Emergency Preparedness and leader in establishing and improving continuity of operations planning for the House.

Implemented program to expand House portraiture collection of historical House figures, including the first woman, the first African-American, and the first Hispanic-American elected to Congress.

Implemented the first electronic filing program for the House.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my appreciation to Jeff Trandahl, the

departing Clerk of the House. We are going to miss Jeff who has given over 20 years of faithful service to the United States Congress.

After rising through the ranks in Member and committee offices, in 1994 Jeff became a principle assistant to the transition team of the new Republican majority, helping to set up the first new majority in almost five decades. Jeff served as an assistant to the Clerk and then as the Acting Chief Administrative Officer of the House. In December 1998, I selected Jeff as my first officer appointment and the 32nd Clerk of the House. Jeff was subsequently elected by the House to four consecutive 2-year terms. He served on four occasions as the presiding officer for the opening of the House, overseeing the seating of Members and the election of the Speaker.

As the chief legislative official of the House, Jeff has been responsible for the daily legislative operations of the House from the day's Journal to our voting system. He has led the House Page Program, which under Jeff's leadership was recognized as a top educational institution, and he has managed the House's historical, curatorial, and archival needs.

Jeff has also been very instrumental in the development of the Capitol Visitor Center project, especially the future exhibit space. Jeff has provided valuable leadership to the House Fine Arts Board, the Capitol Preservation Commission, and the National Archives Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

Jeff's tenure as Clerk has coincided with extraordinary events, including 9/11 and anthrax. Thanks to Jeff and the other Officers of the House, the House was prepared with contingency plans. Jeff was also instrumental in making the ceremonial session in New York City to mark the 1 year anniversary of 9/11 a tremendously moving and historical event.

On both sides of the Capitol building and on both sides of the aisle, Jeff is known for his fairness, his dedication, and his hard work. As I have said before, Republican and Democratic Members of Congress alike have enormous respect for Jeff's vast institutional knowledge, his utter professionalism, and his ability to get things done—traits which have made him a very effective and successful Clerk.

I join my colleagues in wishing Jeff all the best.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Members and staff of the U.S. House of Representatives, I express our sincere gratitude for Jeff's long and faithful service.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNIGREN of California). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TROOPS IN IRAQ AND DIRE CONSEQUENCES

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the Special Order time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, it has been a meaningful and historic night. But it still deeply concerns me that there are Members of this body that have been constantly misinforming the public about pre-war intelligence on Iraq and demanding timetables for troop withdrawal. They seem to be wholly unaware of the dire consequences of even talking about pulling our troops out, let alone demanding it.

Our brave men and women in uniform have always fought desperately to preserve those unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness endowed by the Creator Himself. And that is exactly what they are doing now in Iraq, and we should all be deeply grateful for that.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I am so desperately worried about is whether the people in this body and in this Republic truly understand what we are facing, not only as a Nation, but as Western Civilization.

The question we must ask ourselves is not whether we can win this war. We must win this war. The question now is what will happen if we do not.

Mr. Speaker, I am so concerned that this Nation does not yet understand that we are at war with an ideology, an ideology that threatens the existence of the Free World. This war did not begin on 9/11. This war began many years ago when certain Muslim extremists embraced a divergent Islamist dogma that dictates that all infidels must die.

Our Nation was first attacked during its very early beginnings in the late 1700s by the Barbary terrorists of the day. More recently, we were attacked in 1979 in Iran. Our embassy and our marine barracks were attacked in Beirut in 1983. The first World Trade Center attack was in 1993, Mr. Speaker; and we still did not wake up to what was happening at the time. Our military complexes and soldiers have been targeted throughout the world. The Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia in 1996. Our embassies were blown up in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998. We witnessed the attack on the USS *Cole* in 2000. Mr. Speaker, 1 year later on September 11, terrorists murdered nearly 3,000 American civilians on our own soil, and I wonder tonight have we forgotten that.

Since then our soldiers and our contractors have been kidnapped and executed, their bodies mutilated and dragged through the streets.

And we are not alone, Mr. Speaker. This has taken place throughout the