

As Chief Judge of the Kentucky Court of Appeals, Judge Reed oversaw the most comprehensive judicial reform in our State's history. It included passage of a constitutional amendment that unified and modernized Kentucky's court system. As part of the modernization, the Court of Appeals became the Kentucky Supreme Court, and Scott Reed was elected by his fellow justices to be the first Chief Justice of Kentucky.

As Chief Justice, he then oversaw the implementation of the reform that has led Kentucky into having one of the most efficient and modern court systems in the country. The Chief Justice of the Commonwealth holds equal rank with the Governor, the latter being the head of the executive branch and the Chief Justice serving as head of the judiciary.

He was elected as a fellow in the National College of the Judiciary in 1965 and Judge Reed was a voting member of the American Law Institute, a body of scholarly people who shape the laws of our Nation. The opinions written by Scott Reed during his time on the Supreme Court of Kentucky have received national acclaim for their scholarly content. He has been viewed as one of Kentucky's most accomplished and erudite jurists.

Judge Reed was a frequent lecturer to the National College of Trial Judges and has achieved the highest honors that can be bestowed on a member of his profession. Scott Reed was named to the University of Kentucky College of Law Hall of Distinguished Alumni on April 11, 1980. He crowned his career with 10 years on the Federal bench.

In 1989, he took senior status while battling the onset of Alzheimer's, which eventually took his life on February 17, 1994. Judge Scott Reed's fine legacy to his hometown of Lexington and to his home State of Kentucky will always be a proud part of our heritage.

Mr. Speaker, as the sponsor of H.R. 4530, I strongly urge its passage.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman working on this, and just to let the gentleman know, I have a Henry Clay Township in Pennsylvania, which happens to be in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, so Pennsylvania and Kentucky have more in common than one would think.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4530 is a bill to designate the Federal building located at 101 Barr Street in Lexington, Kentucky, as the Scott Reed Federal Building and United States Courthouse. The bill was introduced by the Gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. CHANDLER) and his Kentucky colleague (Mr. ROGERS).

Scott Reed was born in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1921. He attended local schools and graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law in 1945. While at the University, Reed received many awards and honors, including the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Medalion for Excellence.

The first years of Judge Reed's career were spent in private practice during which he dis-

tinguished himself as a trial lawyer of great integrity. During this time, he also taught at the University of Kentucky College of Law.

From 1964 to 1969, Judge Reed was judge of the First Division of the Fayette Circuit Court. From 1969 until 1976, he served on the Court of Appeals, 5th Appellate District. In 1976, Judge Reed became the Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, a position which holds equal rank with the Governor. His opinions from the Supreme Court of Kentucky have received national attention for their scholarly content and careful judicial reasoning.

In August 1979, Judge Reed was nominated by President Carter to the federal bench. He was confirmed later that year and served until his death in 1994. During his confirmation hearing for the federal bench, Judge Reed was characterized as possessing a great sense of fairness and objectivity, practical legal experience, and great respect for the law and its responsibility to our Nation's citizens. Both Senator Huddleston and Senator Ford participated in Judge Reed's confirmation hearing in October 1979.

Judge Reed enjoyed a rich and rewarding career. His contributions to the American judicial system are exceptional. It is fitting that the Lexington courthouse bears his name to honor his distinguished career and enduring legacy.

I support H.R. 4530 and urge its passage.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMPBELL of California). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4530.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PETS EVACUATION AND TRANSPORTATION STANDARDS ACT OF 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3858) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that State and local emergency preparedness operational plans address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or emergency.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3858

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 "Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. STANDARDS FOR STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OPERATIONAL PLANS.

Section 613 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196b) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

“(g) STANDARDS FOR STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OPERATIONAL PLANS.—In approving standards for State and local emergency preparedness operational plans pursuant to subsection (b)(3), the Director shall ensure that such plans take into account the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or emergency.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. CHANDLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3858.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 3858, originally sponsored by Representative LANTOS of California and Representative SHAYS of Connecticut amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to require the Director of FEMA to ensure that State and local emergency preparedness operational plans take into account the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or emergency.

During the evacuation of the gulf coast region last fall, we learned of the difficulty of evacuating household pets and service animals. Concerns over whether pets would be permitted to accompany their owners made some victims reluctant or unwilling to evacuate, choosing to wait out the disaster. The PETS Act would help ensure that household pets and service animals are considered by State and local emergency preparedness plans.

I would like to recognize my colleague, Mr. LANTOS, who introduced this bill soon after Hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf coast. Mr. LANTOS, a founding member of the Congressional Friends of Animals Caucus, has been an outspoken champion for animals.

I would also like to commend Mr. SHAYS for his dedication in moving this legislation and strong desire to resolve flaws in our Nation's emergency management system made apparent by Hurricane Katrina. I was lucky to have the opportunity to work with Mr. SHAYS on the Katrina investigation committee.

Both Mr. LANTOS and Mr. SHAYS have been champions of this issue and have worked to ensure that owners don't have to make a choice between their personal safety and their pets' safety.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2005. This legislation amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to require the Director of FEMA to ensure that State and local emergency preparedness operational plans address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or an emergency.

It must be a top priority of our Nation to save citizens from any disaster, yet we should not underestimate the importance of rescuing pets to our ability to help citizens in a disaster. None of us should be faced with the choice of abandoning our beloved pets and critically needed service animals or risking our own personal safety.

As we witnessed during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, a significant number of people chose not to abandon their pets and risked their lives to stay with their animals. Some areas of Florida where hurricanes are a yearly occurrence have long recognized saving animals saves people and include a place for animals in emergency plans. And now, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, a few areas and other Gulf Coast States, including Harrison County, Mississippi, will have its first pet-friendly shelter in place for the 2006 hurricane season.

However, unfortunately, for most of the gulf coast and indeed the rest of the country, the issue is still unresolved unless legislation like this is approved today. All of us saw many horrible scenes of abandoned pets wandering through the flooded city of New Orleans. In addition to the humanitarian issue of forcing people to choose between their own safety and leaving their pets behind, there are serious problems, including health and safety risks to the disaster area, that are exacerbated by the abandoning of pets.

We know that many of these problems can be mitigated or even eliminated through proper emergency planning. Fortunately, legislation like this helps increase the awareness of lawmakers and emergency officials to recognize what animal advocates already know, that pets figure strongly in a person's decision to evacuate to safety. And we certainly want to encourage our citizens to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. I applaud Mr. LANTOS and Mr. SHAYS for all of their efforts on this bill, and I urge its support.

Mr. Speaker, I think that Mr. SHUSTER has already mentioned Mr. LANTOS' interest in the welfare of animals. It is heartfelt. I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. LANTOS on the International Relations Committee, and I have the great privilege today of introducing him and yielding to him such time as he may consume to speak on this very important piece of legislation.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague on

the International Relations Committee from Kentucky (Mr. CHANDLER). I want to thank Mr. SHUSTER for his extraordinarily gracious gesture. I also want to express my appreciation to Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member OBERSTAR of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the ranking member on that subcommittee, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

I particularly want to thank my dear friend and colleague of many years, CHRIS SHAYS, for again joining with me in sponsoring a significant and major humane piece of legislation. But my most sincere thanks go to my wife, Annette, who has been my guiding light on all humane pieces of legislation I have had the privilege of working on.

Mr. Speaker, the work of my colleagues, along with the Herculean efforts of all the animal welfare organizations, will ensure not only the safety of household pets and service animals but of their owners in moments of potential fatal danger. Families will be able to prepare and evacuate from a disaster with more confidence and security knowing that all of their family members and their pets will be secure.

Mr. Speaker, the devastation in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama brought unbelievable images into every American home night after night.

□ 1530

The loss of life and property was staggering. But on top of all of that, the sight of evacuees having to choose between being rescued or remaining with their pets, perhaps even having to leave behind their service animals they rely on every day, was just heart-breaking.

I was watching television one night, Mr. Speaker, and I saw a 7-year-old little boy with his dog. His family lost everything, and all they had left was their dog. And since legislation such as ours was not yet on the statute books, the dog was taken away from this little boy. To watch his face was a singularly revealing and tragic experience.

This legislation was born that moment. Many pieces of legislation we pass in this body are the result of months and years of study and research and preparation. Not this bill. This bill was born the moment the 7-year-old little fellow had to give up his dog because there was no provision to provide shelter for his pet.

The Pet Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act will put an end to all of this. Until today, accommodating families with pets or disabled citizens with service animals was never considered an essential part of any evacuation plan. Our PETS Act requires State and local emergency preparedness authorities to include in their evacuation plans provisions to accommodate pets or service animals in case of a disaster.

The lack of planning in the past interfered with disaster operations in New Orleans where people who were worried about losing their animal com-

panions often refused rescuers' help. If evacuees know that their pets, who obviously are considered members of their family, are in good hands, they will be willing to cooperate with authorities.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, Mr. Speaker, there are 65 million dogs and 77 million cats owned as pets by American families. Thousands of visually impaired people depend on guide dogs to get around. These faithful pet owners and visually impaired citizens must be able to evacuate if in the path of harm, and they must know that all members of their family will be safe.

Since the gulf coast hurricanes, this Nation has endured other weather events. In many cases, local authorities made impromptu plans for people with pets or service animals. This demonstrates that authorities are capable of making effective plans for people with pets and service animals. But we cannot let the lessons learned from the gulf coast hurricanes be forgotten. Our PETS Act will ensure that years from now States will continue to plan for their pet and service animal populations. This will ensure a smooth and safe evacuation for all members of the family and their pets and service animals.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this potentially life-saving legislation, life-saving with respect to the animals we love, and life-saving with respect to members of our families.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. YOUNG and Mr. OBERSTAR. I wanted to defer my opportunity to go before Mr. LANTOS because it needs to be clear this began in the heart and mind of Mr. LANTOS' wife, and we are merely instruments of her goodness.

I rise, in support of H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act, which we do refer to as the PETS Act, which Congressman LANTOS and I, as co-chairmen of the Friends of Animals Caucus, introduced.

This commonsense bill requires State and local preparedness planners to include plans for evacuation of pet owners, pets and service animals, as has already been described by previous speakers.

Hurricane Katrina left so many victims in its wake, including an estimated 600,000 animals that either lost their lives or were left without shelter. Hurricane Katrina taught us the hard lesson that, as we prepare for future emergencies, it is important we incorporate pet owners and their pets in our plans.

Many pet owners had to choose between their safety and the safety of their pets, and anyone who owns a pet understands the difficult decisions that they had to make.

In order to qualify for Federal Emergency Management Agency funding, a jurisdiction is required to submit a plan detailing their disaster preparedness plan. The PETS Act would simply require State and local emergency preparedness authorities to plan for how they would accommodate household pets and service animals when presenting these plans to FEMA. Animals do not go before people, but animals will have a place in this plan.

The human horror and devastation in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama was a tragedy we are addressing, but it was also heartbreaking to hear stories of forcing evacuees to choose between being rescued or remaining with their pets.

This bipartisan legislation is necessary because when asked to choose between abandoning their pets or their personal safety, many pet owners chose to risk their lives and would continue today to risk their lives and remain with their pets. The plight of the animals left behind was truly tragic. This is not just an animal protection issue; this is a public safety issue. Roughly two-thirds of American households own pets. We need to ensure the pets and their pet owners are protected.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this legislation. I, too, want to make reference to that young man; I guess he was around 7 years old. I think of him and think this young man may have lost his home, he may have lost everything he owned, but he had his pet. As long as he had his pet, he could deal with it. To see this pet being grabbed from him, to me it was the height of cruelty that I still have a hard time understanding and appreciating.

When my mom and dad moved when I was 8 or 9 years old to another place, our pet dog, Mack, kept running back to the original house, and we lost him. For 2 years, I didn't have a pet, but I grew up with a pet. Then we moved to a new home and my parents could afford nothing else. They told me no Christmas presents. There would be no Christmas presents. My Christmas present was a new home, a brand new room, and I dealt with that. I thought, this year, no Christmas presents.

They were gone Christmas Eve day, and they came home that night. They didn't tell me where they had been, which was very unusual. I was with my three older brothers. Then my parents asked me to come down into the garage. As I did, they were walking up holding a beautiful collie pup. That night I slept on the floor with Lance, my collie pup.

I will never forget the joy I had. It was the best Christmas I ever had, and it was just one little gift, a pet that remained in our household for years.

This is an important bill, and I urge its passage.

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

I want to thank Mr. LANTOS and his wife, Annette, in particular for extend-

ing their well-known humanitarian instincts to the welfare of animals. I also want to thank Mr. SHAYS and Mr. SHUSTER for all of their work on this bill.

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

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

I also want to thank Mr. LANTOS and Mr. SHAYS for their work on this bill.

The PETS Act would help ensure that household pets and service animals are considered by State and local emergency preparedness plans because there are people in this country, myself included, I have a dog Chloe that has a close relationship with my family, and I know people throughout this country have pets that are near and dear to their hearts.

When you go to a rooftop, as we saw down in New Orleans as Mr. SHAYS and Mr. LANTOS pointed out, people are unwilling to get aboard a boat or helicopter if they have to leave their beloved pet behind. Once again, this is so States and local emergency preparedness plans take into consideration situations that might occur if someone has to abandon their pets. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act of 2005. This bill amends the Stafford Act to ensure that state and local emergency preparedness plans account for the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or emergency.

There were many tragedies from Hurricane Katrina that will not soon be forgotten. Some of the most indelible images were the ones of people being forced to choose between leaving their pets behind or being evacuated to safety. In many cases, these loyal animals had stayed with their owners for days on rooftops waiting to be rescued, only to be abandoned because the rescuers refused to carry the pets to safety with their owners. In other cases, people chose not to be rescued—putting themselves in further danger—because they simply could not bear to leave their pets behind.

A person should not have to leave their seeing-eye dog behind in order to save her own life—as we saw in Hurricane Katrina. Nor should a child, who has already been traumatized by the devastation of a disaster, have to abandon his beloved pet in order to be transported to safety—as we saw in Hurricane Katrina. As the June 1st start of the next hurricane season approaches, it's important that this bill becomes law and that state and local officials start to plan for the evacuation of pets and service animals.

There are, of course, other issues in the wake of Hurricane Katrina that this Congress should address. Last week, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Government Reform Committee favorably ordered reported H.R. 5316, the Restoring Emergency Services to Protect our Nation from Disasters (RESPOND) Act to the House. The RESPOND Act not only restores FEMA as an independent, cabinet-level agency, but it also reforms and strengthens our national emergency preparedness system so that we never again have to witness such a dismal failure by

the federal government to respond to its citizens in need as we did with Hurricane Katrina.

H.R. 5316 ensures that FEMA's core functions of preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation will once again coexist and work to complement each other in an independent FEMA, and not be separated and dismantled as they have been in the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Speaker, the bill we have before us is a much-needed first step in a longer process of reforming our emergency management system. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3858.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3858, the Pets and Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act of 2005. This is a sample, focused piece of legislation that will require local and state emergency preparedness authorities to include in their evacuation plans how they will accommodate household pets and/or service animals in case of a disaster. It deserves our support.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita revealed gaping holes in our capacity to effectively manage the aftermath of large-scale disasters. Our failures in emergency response and evacuation were numerous, and they varied in both size and importance. One problem with our response was a blind spot in our disaster planning regarding the evacuation of pets and service animals. For too many caring animal owners, the opportunity to escape danger means separation from a beloved pet. More grievous, the evacuation of many residents of the Gulf Region who are dependent on service animals was complicated by inflexible regulations that did not take their special needs into account.

H.R. 3858 is commonsense legislation that will ensure planning for future disaster provides for the needs of pet owners. This bill is support by the Humane Society of the United States, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Doris Day Animal League and the Best Friends Animal Society.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to join in support of H.R. 3858.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3858.

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 question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.