

profound benefits to our Nation as a whole by allowing Americans to spread the message of freedom and democracy around the world. In addition, having a passport and traveling abroad enables Americans to see the American influence on the world first-hand, including the tremendous amount of humanitarian aid given by Americans through both the public and private sectors.

Americans of all ages are our best ambassadors and we should promote policies that encourage them to travel, to forge connections with people from other countries, to foster mutual understanding and tolerance and to help open new doors to peace.

The timing of our efforts could not be more critical. I think we can all recognize that America needs a boost in foreign public opinion and I am confident that connections made with American travelers can and will make a huge difference improving our image abroad.

So, for all of these reasons, when Lonely Planet, which I am pleased to say is located in Oakland in my district, first raised the idea of a national passport month, I immediately embraced it.

I am proud to have introduced H. Res. 327 and to be part of this campaign to recognize the importance of international travel, and I am overwhelmed by the support we have received. In April of this year, Lonely Planet presented me with over 5,000 petition signatures from people all over the country who support these efforts. And this campaign has the support of a broad coalition of over 70 supporting travel organizations and associations to corporations like American Express and Yahoo.

Moreover, the U.S. Department of State is on record in supporting September as National Passport month. I want to read a quote from its letter: "Since September is a time of the year when schools are re-opening and many students are considering travel or study abroad, it is a highly appropriate month to promote public awareness of the value of the U.S. passport. The Department shares your appreciation of the U.S. passport and supports your resolution."

So, today I'm pleased the House will go on record in support of proclaiming September National Passport Month.

Again, I want to thank all the supporters of this resolution and I look forward to working with you all to ensure the White House issues this proclamation in ample time for the inaugural National Passport month celebrations this September.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, BUREAU OF
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, August 29, 2005.

DEAR Ms. LEE: Thank you for your letter addressed to Secretary Rice regarding H. Res. 327, a resolution to encourage President Bush to proclaim September National Passport Month. It is a pleasure to acknowledge your comments on the positive impact international travel has on individuals and the global community. We, too, recognize the value of travel as a means of enhancing international understanding.

Even though the State Department will issue more than 10 million passports this fiscal year, still less than 23 percent of Americans have a passport. The Department strives to make the process of issuing passports to U.S. citizens as efficient and as courteous as possible. Since September is a time of the year when schools are re-opening and many students are considering travel or study abroad, it is a highly appropriate

month to promote public awareness of the value of the U.S. passport. The Department shares your appreciation of the U.S. passport and supports your resolution.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW A. REYNOLDS,
Acting Assistant Secretary.

Mr. ISSA. 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 California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 327.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS ARE FIGHTING FOR BORDER SECURITY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans understand that in this post-9/11 world we cannot separate national security from border security. On that fateful day back in 2001, we learned that the "business as usual" mentality simply does not work anymore. What our Nation needs is a clear immigration enforcement strategy that reduces the threat posed by those who are breaking our laws.

It is estimated that roughly 12 million illegal aliens now reside in the United States. Each year the number grows by another 700,000. Yet we are arresting the same number of illegal aliens as we did back in 1977, despite the fact we have many more illegals coming in than we used to.

Obviously, something has to be done. That is why House Republicans voted to pass a major border security bill this past December. This bill strengthens our borders, implements employment eligibility verification systems, cracks down on those who knowingly hire illegals, empowers local law enforcement to enforce our immigration laws and expedites the swift deportation of illegal aliens.

This is something that has to be done and we cannot compromise on this. Our Nation's security is at risk, and nothing else is more important.

D-DAY AND THE YOUNG AMERICANS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the silent ocean roar now covers the battlefields on the shores of France.

They fought for a people they did not know in a place they had never been and consecrated the soil of freedom by the self-sacrifice of their own blood.

There are 9,386 Americans buried on the cliffs of Normandy, France. 1,557

are still missing 62 years later. They gave their youth so Europe could have a tomorrow. They came not to conquer, but to set a people free. That D-Day invasion of France was the beginning of the liberation of Europe.

Those that served that day jumped from the sky in the darkness, or went ashore in the face of massive gunfire. They were the young Americans that went to land in Normandy on June 6, 1944. They defeated the evil forces of the Axis and they did not come back until it was over over there.

History refers to those that died and those that lived as the Greatest Generation. They are our fathers and our grandfathers. They defended the honor of liberty and proved there is something worth fighting for, and there is something worth dying for. And that's just the way it is.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to bring attention to the problem of internally displaced persons, or IDPs in Nagorno-Karabakh in the Caucasus. The situation is disheartening because aid is needed and, unfortunately, the United Nations refuses to allow its organizations like UNHCR and UNICEF to operate in the country largely due to Azerbaijan's opposition.

Because internally displaced persons remain within the borders of their home country, primary responsibility for protecting and assisting them rests with their national authorities. However, I strongly believe there is also a responsibility that lies with the United States and the international community to bring rightful attention to this issue and consider ways to ease and eventually end the plight of these displaced individuals.

Mr. Speaker, in the late 1980s and early 1990s, as the Soviet Union was collapsing the people of Nagorno-Karabakh made a peaceful request to reunite with Armenia, from which they were arbitrarily separated by Joseph Stalin in 1921.

□ 2300

Azerbaijan responded with a campaign of ethnic cleansing and full-scale military attack on Nagorno-Karabakh.

As a result of Azerbaijan's aggression, 30,000 people died, and hundreds of thousands fled the region. About 36,000 Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan and some 71,000 displaced ethnic Armenians now reside in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Though the fighting has ended, ceasefire violations continue, and the victims are still suffering.

IDPs still face hardships, including lack of economic opportunity and inadequate shelter. Refugees and displaced individuals and families deserve humanitarian support independent of their location. However those in Nagorno-Karabakh have not received adequate international assistance.

The International Committee of the Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders are the only major international organizations operating in Nagorno-Karabakh. Besides Armenia, the United States is the only other government providing them assistance.

Now recognizing the ongoing need for humanitarian assistance, the U.S. Congress has provided funds to Nagorno-Karabakh since 1998. Through various organizations, USAID has implemented critical projects, including the construction of homes, improved access to water supplies and school reconstruction.

Although these programs have helped improve living conditions, much more is still needed. So, Mr. Speaker, the UN unfortunately refuses to operate in Karabakh and does not send aid or organizations like UNHCR and UNICEF there for assistance.

The reason given by the UN is that they do not work in "politically unrecognized territories". Yet it is my understanding that there are several other disputed territories where the UN currently operates. For example, the UN has been providing assistance to refugees in the West Bank and Gaza since 1950. In fact, the UN created a specific organization, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East to help Palestinian refugees.

They have also undertaken work in other unrecognized or disputed areas, including Kosovo, Somaliland, Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Transnistria. The Karabakh authorities have made repeated requests for help to the UN for assistance but have been unsuccessful.

The UN's refusal to work in Karabakh is unfair and hard to comprehend since the UN has been providing substantial assistance to refugees and IDPs residing in Armenia and Azerbaijan, while overlooking the needs of similar groups residing in Karabakh.

It is encouraging that the United States is committed to finding a peaceful solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis. But as Members of Congress, we must provide the leadership necessary for the UN and other relevant organizations to find ways to support these refugees and IDPs.

I plan to send a letter urging the UN to reconsider its misguided policies that are depriving suffering people in Karabakh of urgently needed humanitarian assistance. I hope that my colleagues will join me in this effort when I send the letter, and that we can get the UN to turn around its position.

LAWLESSNESS BREEDS MORE LAWLESSNESS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, she was buried alive in a landfill underneath massive concrete chunks. Human garbage is what Milagro Cunningham thought of this 8-year-old girl who he raped, choked and left to die in a dump.

Police do not know how she was able to find the strength to wiggle her fingers while trapped underneath these slabs of concrete. She was still barely alive, and wiggling her fingers was her silent cry for help.

Milagro Cunningham was an illegal from the Bahamas. He was arrested three times by police before he tried to kill this tiny girl. Not once did the police detain him for trespassing on American soil. They let him go each time. Then he ruined the life of a child. Mr. Speaker, this ought not to be.

Failure to enforce the laws of the border brings those bad people to America to break more laws. There are others. The Railroad Killer, Angel Resendez or Resendez Resendez as he is sometimes referred to, raped, bludgeoned, hammered, and even sledgehammered nine people to death. All lived within yards of railroad tracks throughout the plains of America.

Small town shops sold out of pistols. People who never locked their doors sealed their windows afraid of this killer on the loose. The killer? An illegal from Mexico. He hopped trains never knowing where he was going, but always knowing what would happen when he got there. To him every border, Mexican, U.S. or Canadian meant bloodshed and murder.

He was arrested and released numerous times. He was even arrested and deported. He was sent home after carrying guns, defrauding Social Security, committing burglary, trespassing, even pretending to be an American citizen.

But the border of Texas and Mexico is no border at all for this killer. He was only arrested for murder after he claimed the lives of nine American citizens. His first known murder victim was beaten to death just 2 years after his last deportation. The victim's girlfriend was raped and beaten, but she survived and was found near railroad tracks.

These deadly illegal invaders knew what they were doing, but they are not the only ones to track northward leaving a trail of trouble. Their bold and brazen border crossings and thousands of others like them mean 12 legal citizens will be murdered today, tomorrow, and every day.

Lawlessness on the border breeds lawlessness in the heart of America. And 13 legal citizens will die because a drunk illegal got behind the wheel of a car. That occurs today, and tomorrow, and every day. That is 28,000 homicides by illegals since 2003, 10 times the number of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, this ought not to be. And there is more. Eight children will be sexually abused by illegal perverts who will cross the line, cross over our open borders. That is today, that is tomorrow, and it is every day. Lawless on the border breeds lawlessness in the heart of America.

Not all illegal immigrants are criminals. But some are. And when all cross the border, they break the law with their first step on American soil. And their first crime may not be their last.

Mr. Speaker, they are not just trespassing on our soil, they are laughing at our laws. They are violating our values. They are shattering our safety. Mr. Speaker, this ought not to be. It must be stopped with a sealed border, and a common sense immigration process that puts America first.

And to the pandering politicians who prefer a plan of patronizing the illegals to the detriment of citizens and illegal immigrants, shame on you for your un-American policy. That's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING BILLY CASPER

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to rise today to talk about an American hero, a hero from San Diego, California, Billy Casper, one of the great athletes to ever stride the greens and fairways of America's golf courses and compete in national and international tournaments with a great successful record, but also one of the greatest family men and greatest husbands, greatest father, greatest grandfathers who ever had a family in San Diego or helped a community or did all of the great things that Billy Casper has done.

I have got my friend, Mr. ISSA, to talk with me a little bit about Billy Casper. But Billy Casper was a great golfer. And he is celebrating, we are celebrating here, his first victory which was the LaBatt Open in Canada. I think he was 22 years old at the time.

I think he had at that time had married Shirley, who was his high school sweetheart from Chula Vista, and he followed that victory, the LaBatt Open, with some 50 more PGA professional victories, including two U.S. Opens and a Masters.

You know, people once said, Mr. Speaker, I know you coming from Long Beach, and then ultimately the entire State of California as our former Attorney General, you knew about Billy Casper, because he was a guy who was