

lynching and founder of America's only black holocaust museum located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my 92 cosponsors, including the entire delegation from Wisconsin, in remembrance and to honor one of our Nation's true civil rights pioneers, a man who experienced the most horrific acts of violence in this country's history and who used that experience to promote social justice and racial healing. This resolution honors a man who at the tender age of 16 witnessed the lynching of his two friends. And although the lynch mob had looped a rope around his neck, his life was miraculously spared.

This resolution honors a man who spent most of his life after that point dedicated to the eradication of racism, the preservation of African American history, and the advancement of civil rights for all of us. Dr. James Cameron embraced the call of civil rights and social justice work despite several death threats, Mr. Speaker. He went on to found three NAACP chapters in Indiana and played a role in protests to end segregated housing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In 1988, Mr. Cameron founded the Black Holocaust Museum after an inspirational journey to Israel in order to preserve the history of lynching in the United States and to use this knowledge to promote understanding and combat racism, fear, and violence.

Dr. James Cameron left us and passed away on Sunday, June 11 at the age of 92. This was almost one year to the day that the United States Senate honored Cameron as the only lynching survivor and passed its historic resolution formally apologizing for not passing anti-lynching legislation throughout much of the 20th century. Just yesterday we laid Dr. Cameron to rest on the symbolic day, Juneteenth Day, in commemoration for the ending of slavery in this country; also Juneteenth Day commemorating the 18th anniversary of the founding of America's Black Holocaust Museum.

Mr. Speaker, this is a significant week in civil rights and in black history. In addition to yesterday being Juneteenth, the House plans to consider the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act this week. Dr. Cameron's life exemplifies the imperative of the civil rights struggle, the call to listen to our humanity over and above our fear. Dr. Cameron taught us to be better, not bitter.

Years ago, Dr. Cameron placed me on his board of directors of America's Black Holocaust Museum, a relationship that I sought for personal resurrection, restoration, reconciliation, renewal, and regeneration as an heir of the shameful experience of slavery. However, Mr. Speaker, all, all of whom encountered Dr. Cameron throughout the world, including the family of the young victim on that August night, all who experienced Dr. Cameron experienced reconciliation, the reconciling and redemptive power of forgiveness.

I strongly urge my colleagues to continue to add to the historic significance of this week by supporting this resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of a man who had a life worth living, Dr. James Cameron.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. It is now my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas who has spent much of her life working on behalf of civil rights and racial reconciliation, Representative SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentleman. It is an honor to follow his leadership on these issues of empowerment and particularly of African American men. I rise today to acknowledge the very special moment of history we have today to pass this resolution in honor of Mr. Cameron, and particularly I rise to pay tribute and honor my colleague from Wisconsin, the honorable GWEN MOORE, for her insightful leadership to bring to the attention of this House a man who survived lynching, a man who is symbolic of almost 5,000 who were lynched as others watched and stood by, a man who dedicated his life to civil rights even though he was threatened every day such that he had to leave his place of birth, a place that he loved, the State of Indiana, and move to Wisconsin.

A person who used the tragedy of his life, the tragedy of his two young friends to be a man who perpetrated reconciliation and the ending of racism. Thank you to the Honorable GWEN MOORE for enlightening this body and allowing us to pay tribute as we debate this week the Voter Rights Act reauthorization. Yes, this is a moment in history for this House to take, and I hope it will take it enthusiastically and unanimously support the resolution offered today honoring Mr. Cameron for his enormous leadership. Thank you, Congresswoman GWEN MOORE.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time. But I, too, would simply like to commend again the gentlewoman from Wisconsin for her insight, for her passionate display of the relevance of the holocaust museum, but also the relevance of the life of a real pioneer and one who could teach in spite of his own personal tragedy.

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Resolution 867, as amended, to commemorate the extraordinary life of Dr. Cameron.

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. DENT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 867, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMENDING THE PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 731) commending the Patriot Guard Riders for shielding mourning military families from protesters and preserving the memory of fallen servicemembers at funerals, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 731

Whereas in 2005, a small group of American Legion Riders in Kansas calling themselves the "Patriot Guard" began a movement to shield the families and friends of fallen service members from interruptions by protesters appearing at military funerals;

Whereas individuals from Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas later brought together diverse groups of motorcycle organizations across the country who rode to honor fallen service members, forming an organization known as the "Patriot Guard Riders";

Whereas the Patriot Guard Riders have since grown into a nationwide network, including both veterans and nonveterans and riders and nonriders, and is open to anyone who shares a respect for service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the Nation;

Whereas Patriot Guard Riders attend military funerals to show respect for fallen service members and to shield mourning family members and friends of the deceased from protestors who interrupt, or threaten to interrupt, the dignity of the event;

Whereas across the Nation, Patriot Guard Riders volunteer their time to come to the aid of military families in need, so to allow the memories of the deceased service member to be remembered with honor and dignity;

Whereas regardless of one's opinion of the Nation's military commitments, the families, friends, and communities of the Nation's fallen soldiers deserve a peaceful time of mourning and should not be harassed and caused further suffering at a funeral;

Whereas Patriot Guard Riders appear at a funeral only at the invitation of the fallen soldier's family and participate in a non-violent, legal manner; and

Whereas the members of the Nation's Armed Forces willingly risk their lives to protect the American way of life and the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives expresses its deepest appreciation to the Patriot Guard Riders who—

(1) attend military funerals across the country to show respect for fallen members of the Armed Forces and, when needed, shield mourning family members and friends of the deceased from protestors who interrupt, or threaten to interrupt, the dignity of a funeral; and

(2) in so doing, help to preserve the memory and honor of the Nation's fallen heroes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 731 offered by my friend and colleague from Kansas, Representative JERRY MORAN.

Just last month, this Congress responded magnificently to the deplorable acts of a few who celebrate the deaths of our fallen soldiers when it passed the Respect For America's Fallen Heroes Act. In doing so, we sent a strong message to those who would hide behind the first amendment while using hate speech to dishonor the memories of those who have honorably served their country in the Armed Forces simply because they disagree with policy.

However, this resolution tells the other side of the story, the positive side. In response to these so-called protesters, an all-volunteer group known as the Patriot Guard Riders was formed to shield those who mourn the death of their loved ones from those who celebrate it; and since last year, these patriots have seen their membership rise to the tens of thousands. Now the threat of protest at a military funeral is met with the roar of hundreds of motorcycles bearing American flags thundering down the street providing both a visible and audible barrier between the families that are trying to honor their loved ones and those trying to disrespect them.

Mr. Speaker, the families of our fallen heroes should be allowed to bury their loved ones with the respect and dignity they deserve, not with the ridicule and disrespect that seem to dominate today's political and cultural landscape. For defending that right, the Patriot Guard Riders are true patriots, and I believe it is both fitting and proper that we honor their service here today.

Yet the mission of the Patriot Guard Riders can best be summed up in their own words. In answer to the question, Why do we ride? They respond: Never again will they return home in shame. Never again will wearing their uniform cause them pain. Never again will we forget why they serve.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Kansas for introducing this resolution and urge all my colleagues to support it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, today I will be managing the time on behalf of the Democratic members of the House Armed

Services Committee. And I certainly want to thank Mr. MORAN for bringing forth this resolution and thank Mrs. DRAKE of Virginia for managing the time and urging the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, in 2004, my hometown of Wilson, North Carolina, suffered its first casualty of war since Vietnam. Our community is a rather small community of 43,000 people, and all of the residents of my community including myself felt the sting of this terrible tragedy.

It is abhorrent to me to denigrate this honorable ceremony; yet somehow a few people have found a reason to justify the terrible act of picketing a military funeral. That in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, is despicable. A military funeral is a farewell; it is a farewell for loved ones and a final act of thanks from a grateful Nation. Every soldier in our history, no matter who the enemy has been, has been granted this one simple act which has tragically been repeated so many times and too many times during this and other wars, but always with pride.

Every parent deserves to lay their child to rest as a soldier and as a hero, a person to whom servicemen and servicewomen can look with reverence. Every wounded veteran, Mr. Speaker, can look to these fallen men and women and draw strength from their memories.

To those who are grieving and most vulnerable, the protest must be utterly devastating to them. They are nothing more than cowardly attacks on members of our communities most deserving of our gratitude and our respect.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we come to the floor to honor those who have shown courage in response to cowardness. I commend in the strongest possible terms the Patriot Guard Riders. These volunteers have come forward in defense of our military families, including a dear friend of mine from Greensboro, North Carolina, Mr. Steve Winsett. These men perform selfless acts in memory of servicemembers who will never be able to repay them. It is an act of compassion and is a part of what makes our great Nation strong.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake about it, I support the first amendment's guarantee of free speech, but this sacred moment in the life of a family is out of bounds. I urge the members of the Westboro Baptist Church to find another venue to express themselves.

We express our deepest gratitude from the House Armed Services Committee and from this body; we express our deepest gratitude to the Patriot Guard Riders. And I want to thank again Mr. MORAN for bringing forth this resolution, because it is most appropriate at this time.

I urge its adoption.

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

□ 1200

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas

(Mr. MORAN), the sponsor of the resolution.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia, and I also thank the leader of the Armed Services Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), as well as my chairman from the Veterans' Affairs Committee, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) for their support of this resolution, as well as my colleagues from Kansas.

Many good things come from Kansas, including the Patriot Guard, but in response to something that is less than desirable, and that is a radical Topeka, Kansas-based church has been disrupting funerals of servicemembers now for several years, with picketers that appear at those funerals during and holding signs that read, "Thank God for IEDs," and, "Thank God for dead soldiers." No Kansan, no American can respond to that in any way but the way that it has been described by my colleagues today.

But in 2005, the American Legion Riders of Post 136 in Mulvane, Kansas, responded by bringing their motorcycles and themselves to those funeral services where they provided a buffer between the protesters and the families of those deceased service men and women. They decided to take action and called themselves the Patriot Guard, and they organized their supporters from across the country to attend those funerals and shield our military families. They waved the American flag, sang patriotic songs, and took lawful and peaceful action to serve as a barrier between the families and protesters. Their actions preserved the dignity and honor of these funeral services and allowed the families a peaceful time of mourning on that day of service that they so much deserved.

This movement has now spread across from Mulvane, Kansas, across the State and around the Nation. The Patriot Guard Riders now include thousands of members who volunteer their time to come to the aid of military families at funerals to show their respect and, when needed, to shield families from disruption. Members include veterans and nonveterans, riders and nonriders, and they have successfully performed hundreds of missions across the country not only supporting the fallen and their families, but also providing comfort to those who serve today, knowing that their families would be protected should they fall.

The significance of these volunteer actions is realized when you read letters of appreciation written by family members and friends of the deceased. I would like to mention a letter that the Patriot Guard received from the family of Corporal Peter Wagler. I attended that funeral in Hutchinson, Kansas, at the Nazarene Church on February 10, 2006. Corporal Wagler was killed in Iraq at the age of 19, having served only a month in Iraq, and his family wrote the Patriot Guard Riders:

Thank you so much for your amazing support at the funeral of our son Peter Wagler.

Despite the cold north wind, you rode many miles to participate.

I have never seen such a display of flags as we encountered when leaving the church. Many people have told me how meaningful the flags were to them; many shed tears as they drove through the tunnel. As for your protecting us from the demonstrators, when we arrived we looked for them, but we could not see them, and we never did.

Peter loved motorcycles and planned to get one when he finished his term in Iraq. He will not get to do that, but he would have loved the tremendous display you put on. Our family feels inadequate in expressing our thanks, but please know that we deeply appreciate what you did for us.

God bless you,

David for the Wagler family.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that we adopt this resolution and that we, as a House, commend the Patriot Guard Riders.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers at this time, but I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 731. I want to thank my colleague Mr. MORAN and Mr. RYUN of Kansas for their leadership. I offer my deepest appreciation to the men and women of the Patriot Guard Riders, dedicated and committed Americans who will not wait for others to act, but they took upon themselves the solemn responsibility of right action.

On Memorial Day, before President Bush attended the Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, he signed into law the Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act. This new law prohibits disruptions of military funerals at national cemeteries and Arlington, which is owned by the U.S. Army.

Standing behind the President as he signed the bill in the Oval Office was the executive director of the Patriot Guard Riders, Jeff Brown, and five of his Patriot Guard Riders. They stood beside the families of two soldiers who had made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq, that of Sergeant Rickey Jones of Kokomo, Indiana; and the family of Sergeant Joshua Youmans of Flushing, Michigan. Both families had endured harassment by protesters who were cheering the deaths of their sons.

Patriot Guard Riders, acting out of decency, compassion and respect for the law, often place themselves between the families and the hateful perversions of those who would sharpen the pain of a mourning family's unspeakable loss.

The mission of the Patriot Guard riders is simple: Show sincere respect for our fallen heroes and their families, their communities; and shield the mourning family and friends from interruptions created by any protester or group of protesters. Patriot Guard Riders attend the funerals at the invitation of the family, and they adhere to strictly legal and nonviolent means. These patriots use their vacation time

and fund their own expenses to stand with the grieving families.

Among the hallmarks of the American character is our compassion and human decency. It is how we care for each other in difficult times. In towns across this country, this is evident in the thousands of Americans who line the roads in condolence at the passage of a loved one to attend the military funeral. The independent action, I think, is another of America's sacred traits.

The Patriot Guard Riders, seeing an injustice, chose to rise up and not permit the desecration of the sacred. Their courage, their conviction, and their simple decency on behalf of families grieving at the loss of a loved one represent the very best of our Nation.

In return, we as a Nation offer them our gratitude for unselfishly serving to protect the sanctity of military funerals and for easing the burden of mourning families and their communities, thereby setting a worthy example for everyone.

I urge adoption of this resolution.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. RYUN).

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Patriot Guard resolution put forth by one of my fellow colleagues from Kansas. I rise in support of H. Res. 731.

This group of American Legion riders from Kansas provides an honorable service by protecting military families from protesters at funerals. In fact, just a couple of weeks ago, 200 Patriot Guard Riders were at a funeral in my district, and they effectively protected the family from unwelcome protesters. I heard that even one of the riders came from as far away as Memphis just to be there and do what he could to help the family.

It is a remarkable show of gratitude and service that the Patriot Guard Riders have taken to honor the courageous and sacrificial actions of helping our service families and their servicemembers and their families pay tribute to those that have fallen.

I am disappointed that these people who are protesting at military funerals dare, but I am grateful to the Patriot Guard Riders, and the fact that they even need to be there is unfortunate. Regardless of anyone's particular political view on the global war on terrorism or any other issue, we should give the utmost respect and honor to those who have died serving our country.

The Patriot Guard Riders recognize that, and I commend them for what they are doing, and I encourage them and urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 731.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to come to the floor today and that we can honor a group of Americans who

have gone literally out of their way to see that our heroes in this country are given the respect that they are due. Our fallen soldiers are to be the most honored of all Americans, since they have given their very lives to protect all of our freedoms.

It really is a great shame that any American would seek to disrupt the funeral of one who died to protect the liberty of all. While the actions of a few have been disheartening to us, there are so many who are willing to stand up to show their love and support for the families of the fallen. The Patriot Guard Riders, they show their love of our country, and they do that by drowning out the protests of a few with the rumblings of their motorcycles of the many.

So, today we come to the floor to honor our fallen soldiers, and we do that always here on both sides of the aisle by providing for their families, by mourning for their loss, by remembering their high goals for which they all stood. So it is fitting and proper that we come here today to hold up the Patriot Guard Riders as examples of devotion to the country and encourage them to continue their ride across this Nation to protect the loved ones of our fallen servicemen.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, today we have two funerals occurring in Nebraska in my district. The two soldiers being buried are 22-year-old Specialist Benjamin Slaven, Plymouth, Nebraska, a reservist who was killed south of Baghdad on June 9; a 19-year-old Corporal Brent Zoucha from Clarks, Nebraska, who was killed in al Anbar province on the same day, June 9. Both are being buried June 20, today, and their funerals are occurring as we speak. This makes more than a dozen soldiers, all young, all from rural small communities, that have been killed in my district.

Funerals, Mr. Speaker, should honor and dignify the sacrifices of those soldiers and their families. It should not be disrupted and dishonored by protesters with a political agenda, and unfortunately, some of those protests that have been mentioned previously have occurred in Nebraska. You can imagine how devastating those are to those families who are suffering greatly.

I spoke recently to the mothers of both of these soldiers from Nebraska being buried today. You can sense their pain and their anguish. And so I commend Mr. MORAN for offering H. Res. 731 and also want to thank and commend the Patriot Guard Riders for what they have accomplished.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman.

Having just come back from Iraq, and recognizing the valiant effort of our

soldiers on the front line, both in Afghanistan and Iraq, and I thank the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina for his leadership in yielding, and I thank the proponent of this legislation.

I have the greatest respect for our families, and I offer to say that the decisions of the family to be able to be protected is utmost, and so there will be no disagreement on legislation of this kind. I rise to support it, as well as I raise with my colleagues the need for families to also be able to mourn with a fallen soldier ceremony or be able to have their loved ones come first to this soil at Dover Air Force Base. We hope to be able to allow that mourning in the manner that families desire and a public honoring as they may desire. Their fallen heroes deserve to be honored properly in their hometown and at Dover Air Force Base.

But as we pay tribute to those who have fallen, we want to nurture and support our families, provide them with the privacy that they desire and the respect.

At this moment, Mr. Speaker, I ask for, in the course of my debate on the floor today in support of H. Res. 731, a moment of silence and recognition of the three soldiers who lost their lives this past weekend, in particular at the checkpoint in Baghdad: David J. Babineau of Springfield, MA; Thomas Tucker of Oregon; and our own Kristian Menchaca, age 23, of Houston, TX, who grew up in a near northside neighborhood whose family now mourns his loss and the loss of others, recognizing that these brave young men, 25, 23, 25, are all heroes, and I ask for a moment of silence as we ask that they may rest in peace.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congressman JERRY MORAN for his leadership in introducing H. Res. 731, commending the Patriot Guard Riders for shielding mourning military families from protestors and preserving the memory of fallen service members at funerals.

I am proud to join in the bi-partisan support shown by the House of Representatives for this important legislation.

As you know, the main mission of the Patriot Guard Riders is to help maintain dignity and respect at the funerals of service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. They are invited as guests to block protestors through strictly legal and non-violent means. Like dedicated sentinels, the Patriot Guard Riders line the streets shielding the grieving family and community from any disruptive protestors.

I want to thank personally the Patriot Guard Riders for their nationwide commitment to this cause. The Patriot Guard Riders have paid homage to fallen heroes in my congressional district of El Paso, TX, making a positive impact on my community.

On April 12, 2006, the Patriot Guard Riders traveled to Clint, TX, for the funeral of Sergeant Israel Devora Garcia, who was also made a U.S. citizen at his funeral. Sergeant Garcia's friends and family were left to mourn his passing in peace, free from protest. More recently, on June 16, 2006, the Patriot Guard

Riders congregated at the funeral procession of Specialist Oliver Oropenza at Fort Bliss National Cemetery in El Paso, TX. They were welcomed by grieving friends and family who were able to honor SPC Oropenza free from disruptions.

You may recall that I was the primary Democratic sponsor of H.R. 5037, the Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act, under which demonstrations are restricted within 150 feet of methods of ingress and egress from such cemetery property or within 300 feet of such cemetery in a manner that impedes the access to or egress from the cemetery. This bill guarantees the families and friends of fallen heroes the right to grieve in peace, while also protecting the freedom of speech. I am very proud that, with strong bi-partisan support this bill was passed by both chambers of Congress and signed into law by the President on Memorial Day 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Patriot Guard Riders, who have been physically present at the funerals of our fallen heroes since August 2005, to protect and guard the families and friends of the fallen from protest. I stand in strong support of their honorable mission, and I ask for all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 731.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 731 to commend the Patriot Guard Riders for their valiant efforts to shield mourning military families from protestors at the funeral services of their loved ones.

I recently had the honor and privilege to attend the funeral of Army Sergeant Lonnie Calvin Allen, Jr., who was killed along with three other servicemembers when a roadside bomb struck his Humvee in Baghdad. Over 500 people attended the standing-room-only service to honor the life of this brave young man.

The Nebraska Chapter of the Patriot Guard Riders—decked out in leather and holding American flags—lined the walkway into the church for the protection and peace of mind of friends and family members. I felt proud to be an American as I witnessed this unforgettable display of honor and respect for one of our fallen heroes. The personal dedication and commitment of the Patriot Guard Riders is an inspiring example of true American patriotism.

The Patriot Guard Riders also shielded the surviving family members of Army Captain Joel Cahill, who was on his second tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed late last year by an Improvised Explosive Device, IED, that struck his vehicle. As protestors held signs such as "God sent the IED," and "thank God for dead soldiers," Patriot Guard Riders outnumbered them by at least five to one on the other side of the street, shielding Capt. Cahill's wife and two young daughters. Captain Cahill's 59-year-old father also took action in his own style: he handed the protestors sheets of paper containing biblical verses such as "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

Sgt. L.C. Allen and Capt. Joel Cahill were buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. Their valor and courage will stand the test of time, while the protestors dishonoring their noble sacrifices will fade into the annals of history.

I commend Nebraska State Captain Mike Smith and all the members of the Patriot Guard Riders, both in my State and nationwide. I join them in thanking the families of our

servicemembers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom at home and abroad. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution to recognize the outstanding and selfless contributions of the Patriot Guard Riders—protectors of our fallen American heroes and their families.

□ 1215

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

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 731, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. DRAKE. 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.

EMERGENCY AND DISASTER ASSISTANCE FRAUD PENALTY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4356) to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency funds.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4356

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 "Emergency and Disaster Assistance Fraud Penalty Enhancement Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 47 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 1039. Fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency benefits

"(a) Whoever, in a circumstance described in subsection (b) of this section, knowingly—

"(1) falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device any material fact; or

"(2) makes any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation,

in any matter involving any benefit authorized, transported, transmitted, transferred, disbursed, or paid in connection with a major disaster declaration under section 401 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, or an emergency declaration under section 501 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, or in connection with any procurement of property or services related to any emergency or disaster declaration as