

provide the use of the Capitol rotunda for the recognition of the 75th anniversary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

It is altogether fitting to use the rotunda, which is reserved for only the most special and solemn occasions, to commemorate the establishment in 1930 of an agency charged "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan." Those words, spoken in 1865 by Abraham Lincoln in his Second Inaugural Address, have been adopted by VA as the department's motto.

When President Herbert Hoover signed the executive order establishing the Veterans Administration, and consolidating and coordinating federal support of veterans, America had 4.7 million living veterans. The new VA administered 54 hospitals with 31,600 employees.

Today, VA cares for our veterans and their families with 235,000 dedicated professionals who operate and manage the largest health care system in the Nation. These public servants, helped by more than 130,000 volunteers, provide high-quality health care to more than 5 million patients in more than 1,300 sites of care, including 154 medical centers.

The VA provides about 3 million veterans with disability compensation and pension payments, and nearly 600,000 spouses, children and parents of deceased veterans receive benefits.

Our revered dead lie in honored repose in 123 national cemeteries administered by VA in 39 States and Puerto Rico. VA also provides grants to States to encourage the development of State cemeteries; funds have been awarded for 63 operating State cemeteries, and 5 more are under construction.

VA research has won the Nobel Prize and it has been instrumental in developing the CT scan, the pacemaker, and improvements in artificial limbs. The Nation's first liver transplant was conducted by a VA surgeon, and VA has pioneered treatments for schizophrenia, high blood pressure, and tuberculosis.

Many veterans know VA best for its able administration of the 1944 GI Bill. Veterans Administration educational benefits have to date sent more than 21 million veterans, service members and family members to college, many of whom have also used VA loans to buy a home. The GI Bill essentially created the modern American middle class that has brought this country unparalleled prosperity and global leadership.

Today our Nation is engaged in a global war on terror. As they have for generations before them, VA's professionals and volunteers are at their stations in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, offices, and clinics ensuring that our newest veterans and their families have the best support possible.

The contribution of VA and the importance of support for America's veterans were officially recognized on March 15, 1989, with VA's establishment as a Cabinet-level department. Hailing the creation of the Nation's 14th cabinet-level position, President George H.W. Bush said, "There is only one place for the veterans of America, in the Cabinet Room, at the table with the President of the United States of America."

Madam Speaker, there is only one place to celebrate the 75th anniversary of this remarkable agency. That is in the rotunda of the Capitol of the United States of America, and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 427.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1445

DIRECTING SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO TRANSFER FUNCTIONS OF UNIT OPERATING ON THE TOHONO O'DHAM INDIAN RESERVATION

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5589) to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to transfer to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement all functions of the Customs Patrol Officers unit operating on the Tohono O'dham Indian reservation.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5589

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

SECTION 1. SHADOW WOLVES TRANSFER.

(a) TRANSFER OF EXISTING UNIT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall transfer to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement all functions (including the personnel, assets, and liabilities attributable to such functions) of the Customs Patrol Officers unit operating on the Tohono O'dham Indian reservation (commonly known as the "Shadow Wolves" unit).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW UNITS.—The Secretary is authorized to establish within United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement additional units of Customs Patrol Officers in accordance with this section, as appropriate.

(c) DUTIES.—The Customs Patrol Officer unit transferred pursuant to subsection (a), and additional units established pursuant to subsection (b), shall operate on Indian lands by preventing the entry of terrorists, other unlawful aliens, instruments of terrorism, narcotics, and other contraband into the United States.

(d) BASIC PAY FOR JOURNEYMAN OFFICERS.—A Customs Patrol Officer in a unit described in this section shall receive equivalent pay as a special agent with similar competencies within United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement pursuant to the Department of Homeland Security's Human Resources Management System established under section 841 of the Homeland Security Act (6 U.S.C. 411).

(e) SUPERVISORS.—Each unit described in this section shall be supervised by a Chief Customs Patrol Officer, who shall have the same rank as a resident agent-in-charge of the Office of Investigations within United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) and the gentleman

from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, let me first explain a little bit about who the Shadow Wolves are.

They are a specialized, all-Native American unit of the legacy U.S. Customs Service that were created by an act of Congress in 1972 to patrol the U.S.-Mexican land border within the Tohono O'dham Indian Nation in southern Arizona.

If you kind of visualize the southwest border, California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, and then think of Phoenix and Tucson coming straight down, Nogales, and then go towards California going west, that area would be the Tohono O'dham Reservation. It is an artificially defined border with Mexico there, because, in fact, the Tohono O'dham are on both sides of that, and Congressman HAYWORTH here in Congress has a bill to try to address how they can move inside their reservation, particularly as we tighten our border.

But it is a different challenge because, quite frankly, they were there before Mexico and the United States were there. So it is a different type of a challenge on the southwest border as to how we are going to provide security from terrorism, security from narcotics, from other types of items moving through, as well as illegal immigration.

Now, many people don't necessarily know Tohono O'dham as a name right off the bat; it is the Papago Indian tribe is what we historically called them, both in the north up more towards Phoenix and down in the southwest. But the Tohono O'dham view themselves as that name, and now the Federal Government has recognized them by that.

It is a relatively recent change, just like on our north border up by where the Mohawk reservation was; now they are called the Akwesasne Indian reservation, but we have a similar challenge on that side of the border.

Now, the reason the Shadow Wolves were created is when you have a separate nation inside your Nation, one of the hardest things for our drug agents, for our historic INS agents and others to penetrate is inside an Indian Nation. They are very closed societies. They know who is going to be where inside that Nation. It is not easy to penetrate.

And here we had one of the most successful tracking organizations, the Shadow Wolves have been featured in People Magazine, on television, all sorts of newspapers around the country for years because they combine modern technology with ancient tracking techniques, combined with being members inside that Nation to provide law and order inside that Nation.

They arrested and pursued and identified narcotics smugglers along their 76 miles of border, and 2.8 million acres, and they would seize roughly

100,000 pounds of illegal narcotics every year.

But when we created the Department of Homeland Security, we did something very unwise. We decided by splitting the CBP, the Customs and Border Protection, from the ICE agents, we left several agencies in the lurch. One is the Air and Marine Division that didn't either picket fence on the border or do investigations inside. So we are trying to work that out, which has been easier to do over in the water border on the Gulf of Mexico in the Caribbean Sea, but has been much tougher on the Mexican land border with the United States.

But the other is, what do you do with a group like the Shadow Wolves? They don't fit in an ICE box. They have a border, which is where we try to protect the border, but they also do investigations inside. And the Department of Homeland Security, in trying to figure out how to deal with things that don't quite fit, square pegs in a round hole, jammed them in under CBP, and that meant several things. One is, the Shadow Wolves, a distinct entity, disappeared because they scattered them, along with CBP agents, all over the country because it did not fit the organization structure to say, oh, this is a unique thing on the southwest border, let's create a unique thing.

So now inside the Tohono O'odham reservation, we have CBP agents that do not belong to that Nation. We have ICE agents that are not part of that Nation, and we have got Tohono O'odham Native Americans scattered all over the United States. It makes no sense. Needless to say, it is not working that great.

As we look at Nogales and the traffic pouring through in Arizona and as it moves over to Douglas, as we build more fences, as we put more agents on the border, guess what happens? They move over to the open areas, the Barry Goldwater Air Force Range, Tohono O'odham Indian reservation, and the Fish and Wildlife area to the western part of Arizona. They are overrun now.

Just in one hearing we had several years ago, during the time of the hearing, they had had 1,500 pounds of drugs moved through in the previous 3 months, then 1,500 pounds the previous month. During our hearing, with all of the different agents around, they snared something like 1,800 pounds, five different carloads, another group with seven SUVs going through. They put a Blackhawk on them. This has become a no-man's zone.

You cannot break organizations if you do not have investigations within. Rather than breaking up the Shadow Wolves, we should have been doing a similar thing up in New York State. We need to be looking at similar things in Montana where the Black Feet are not quite on the reservation, but how to work with the tribal groups to create tracking organizations that can do both border and investigations.

Now, this bill is an imperfect solution. It puts them over in ICE. They

basically need to do both things, but since the government continues to stick with they have got to be either A or B, better be B than A, because making them scattered along like a picket fence and working with CBP, wherever they assign them, makes no sense. We need them back together. We need them as a tracking unit, more like a historic Customs ICE organization.

What this bill does is transfers them, in fact, back to ICE. It moves their pay scale to be like ICE special agents. It grants the chief officer of the Shadow Wolves a rank equivalent to the resident agent in charge of the ICE investigations and authorizes similar units in areas such in the Akwesasne Reservation in upstate New York. That is the basic thrust of the bill.

We know we need to work with the Appropriations Committee. We addressed this in the Homeland Security appropriations bill, but we just moved the dollars over. In fact, we will have to work out some kind of transition, because ICE agents make more than CBP. These people were trained trackers. Then all of a sudden we put them back on the border. It makes no sense. And we in Congress, who created this, need to make sure that we stand behind this great idea before all of them retire.

Many already took early retirement or quit because they saw no commitment to keeping them together as a Native American organization.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5589, which directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to transfer to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement all functions of the Customs Patrol Officers unit operating on the Tohono O'odham Indian reservation. This legislation responds to an urgent national priority: regaining control of our borders and stopping the cross-border smuggling of people, narcotics, and other contraband. I'd like to thank Majority Leader BOEHNER, Mr. SHADEGG, and Mr. KING of Iowa for their leadership in bringing this joint legislation to the Floor.

The Shadow Wolves are one of the last remaining Customs Patrol Officer (CPO) units in the country. Created by Congress in 1972, the Shadow Wolves operate on the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation in southern Arizona, which has 76 miles of the U.S.-Mexican border running through it. That reservation has historically been a major conduit for drug smuggling, and the Shadow Wolves—all of them Native Americans who combine modern technology with traditional, Indian tracking techniques—are responsible for stopping the smuggling of drugs, illegal aliens and other contraband between the ports of entry within the 2.8 million acres of the Tohono O'odham Nation. Just since January of this year, the Shadow Wolves have interdicted over 15,000 pounds of illegal drugs that otherwise would have been sold on the streets. The Shadow Wolves have also assisted numerous Federal law enforcement agencies with enforcement issues on the reservation.

Despite being one of our most successful anti-smuggling investigative units, however, the Shadow Wolves are about to disappear altogether. After the formation of the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security, the Shadow Wolves were taken out of their historic location at the Customs Office of Investigations and arbitrarily assigned to the Tucson Sector of the Border Patrol. This arrangement has been unworkable, because the mission and tactics of the Shadow Wolves (who are more like investigators than patrolmen) simply do not fit the organizational model of the Border Patrol. The Shadow Wolves have already lost nearly a quarter of their personnel due to attrition and to date there have been no qualified replacements.

H.R. 5589 fixes this problem by transferring the Shadow Wolves back to the Office of Investigations, now located within ICE. Once again, the Shadow Wolves will be able to do what they do best: find, follow, and bust major drug and alien smuggling rings, in cooperation with their fellow Immigration and Customs investigators.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5589, and help the Nation take yet another major step in regaining control of our borders.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5589. It is long past its time. This is a bill that should have long since been to the floor. This legislation transfers the Shadow Wolves from Customs and Border Protection to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and allows the creation of an additional unit.

The Shadow Wolves were created by an act of Congress in 1972 to address criminal activity along the U.S.-Mexican border. This group, comprised entirely of American Indians, focused on identifying, tracking and arresting drug smugglers along 76 miles of the U.S.-Mexican border.

With the aid of the Shadow Wolves, over 800 pounds of illegal narcotics are seized from smugglers on the reservation on an average day.

The Shadow Wolves are located in Representative GRIJALVA's district in the Tohono O'odham Nation of southwest Arizona. Although he was unable to be here today, Madam Speaker, he shared with me the importance of ensuring this bill becomes law.

Representative GRIJALVA has witnessed firsthand the almost 35 years of success the Shadow Wolves have had in the region deterring, tracking and intercepting drug smugglers. Their remarkable record should be continued.

Allowing the Shadow Wolves to focus on their investigation functions allows them to better secure our Nation's borders against illegal drugs. In the future, I would like to work with other Members to increase the number of officers within existing units.

I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

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

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

Madam Speaker, first, let me thank Chairman PETE KING of the Homeland Security Committee and the ranking member, Mr. THOMPSON, for steadily standing behind this and also keeping the pressure on the administration to resolve these types of things, if they will not remix and back off from their determination to artificially divide this agency, at least to accommodate the things that do not quite fit the bureaucratic structure.

I want to thank Chairman LUNGREN of the subcommittee, as well as Chairman ROGERS of the Homeland Security Appropriations Committee for keeping the pressure on in spite of the administration's resistance.

I appreciate the support in ICE of Director Myers, Julie Myers, for her support in trying to work out a compromise and backing off some of the resistance we have had over the last few years. Congressman JOHN SHADEGG of Arizona has been a leader on this, along with Congressman GRIJALVA for a number of years, and his staff has been down there many times.

We have spent much time on the Arizona border. Congressman STEVE KING has become involved in this, as well, from Iowa. And without the persistence of all of the Members, in addition to the support of the chairman, we would never be at the stage we are tonight of actually recognizing that the Shadow Wolves should exist as a separate unit, of authorizing what we earlier did in the appropriations bill, and see if we cannot finally get this done.

We thank the individual members of the Shadow Wolves who stayed, and their patience as we try to put this back together, because this is important to the reservation. I have talked to tribal leaders there and individual homeowners there, and they are so frustrated with all of the crime that is running through their Indian reservation. They so much want to have their destiny controlled by their own people, to the degree we can work this out.

I appreciate their patience as we have done a very belabored, long conflict over how to do this inside Homeland Security. But I think we are finally nearing the final stages of at least getting them in ICE, holding them together as a unit, working with the administration, with the appropriators, with the authorizers. I thank once again Mr. THOMPSON, Chairman KING and all of the relevant Members for moving this bill forward.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5589.

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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOUDER. Madam 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. 5589.

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

There was no objection.

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 2 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2990, CREDIT RATING AGENCY DUOPOLY RELIEF ACT OF 2006

Mrs. CAPITO, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-550) on the resolution (H. Res. 906) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2990) to improve ratings quality by fostering competition, transparency, and accountability in the credit rating agency industry, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4411, UNLAWFUL INTERNET GAMBLING ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2006

Mrs. CAPITO, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-551) on the resolution (H. Res. 907) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4411) to prevent the use of certain payment instruments, credit cards, and fund transfers for unlawful Internet gambling, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2563, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 5061, by the yeas and nays.

Both electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes.

AUTHORIZING SECRETARY OF INTERIOR TO CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDIES WITHIN SNAKE, BOISE, AND PAYETTE RIVER SYSTEMS IN IDAHO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 2563, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2563, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 366, nays 1, not voting 65, as follows:

[Roll No. 358]

YEAS—366

Ackerman	Clyburn	Gordon
Aderholt	Coble	Granger
Akin	Cole (OK)	Graves
Alexander	Conaway	Green, Al
Allen	Conyers	Green, Gene
Andrews	Cooper	Gutknecht
Baca	Costa	Hall
Bachus	Costello	Harman
Baker	Cramer	Harris
Baldwin	Crenshaw	Hart
Barrett (SC)	Cubin	Hastings (FL)
Barrow	Cuellar	Hastings (WA)
Bartlett (MD)	Culberson	Hayes
Barton (TX)	Cummings	Hayworth
Bass	Davis (AL)	Hefley
Bean	Davis (CA)	Hensarling
Berkley	Davis (IL)	Herger
Berman	Davis (KY)	Herseth
Berry	Davis (TN)	Higgins
Biggert	Davis, Tom	Hobson
Bilbray	Deal (GA)	Hoekstra
Bilirakis	DeFazio	Holden
Bishop (GA)	DeGette	Holt
Bishop (NY)	Delahunt	Honda
Bishop (UT)	DeLauro	Hooley
Blackburn	Dent	Hostettler
Blumenauer	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hoyer
Blunt	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hunter
Boehlert	Dicks	Inglis (SC)
Boehner	Dingell	Inlee
Bonilla	Doggett	Israel
Bonner	Drake	Issa
Bono	Dreier	Jackson (IL)
Boozman	Duncan	Jackson-Lee
Boren	Edwards	(TX)
Boswell	Ehlers	Jefferson
Boustany	Emanuel	Jindal
Boyd	Engel	Johnson (CT)
Bradley (NH)	English (PA)	Johnson (IL)
Brady (TX)	Eshoo	Johnson, E. B.
Brown (SC)	Etheridge	Johnson, Sam
Brown-Waite,	Everett	Jones (NC)
Ginny	Farr	Kanjorski
Burgess	Feeney	Kaptur
Burton (IN)	Ferguson	Keller
Butterfield	Filner	Kelly
Buyer	Fitzpatrick (PA)	Kennedy (MN)
Calvert	Flake	Kennedy (RI)
Campbell (CA)	Foley	Kildee
Cantor	Fortenberry	Kind
Capito	Fossella	King (IA)
Capps	Fox	King (NY)
Capuano	Frank (MA)	Kingston
Cardin	Franks (AZ)	Kirk
Cardoza	Frelinghuysen	Kline
Carnahan	Galleghy	Knollenberg
Carson	Garrett (NJ)	Kolbe
Carter	Gerlach	Kucinich
Case	Gilchrest	Kuhl (NY)
Castle	Gillmor	Langevin
Chabot	Gingrey	Larsen (WA)
Chandler	Gohmert	Larson (CT)
Chocola	Gonzalez	Latham
Cleaver	Goodlatte	LaTourette