

resources in the United States, including wild places: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety; and

(2) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Pennsylvania State Game Commissioner and the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H. Con. Res. 193, a bill recognizing all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety.

H. Con. Res. 193, which has 91 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative CHRISTOPHER CARNEY on July 26, 2007. H. Con. Res. 193 was reported from the Oversight Committee on September 20, 2007 by a voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to Representative CARNEY as much time as he would consume as the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bipartisan resolution that honors our hunters for their commitment to safety. I want to particularly acknowledge the significant bipartisan support from the members of the Pennsylvania delegation, a great number of whom have signed on this bill.

This resolution honors our hunters for their commitment to safety and stewardship of the environment. Hunting is a beloved tradition. It is something I enjoyed both with my father, when I was growing up, and now with my own children.

But as any avid sportsman knows, hunters must have a commitment to safety. We recognize that this sport requires maturity and responsibility. In 2006, there were over 16 million hunters in the United States, of which only .0013 percent incurred an injury. This low injury rate demonstrates a clear commitment to safety. In fact, in 2006, hunters in Pennsylvania set a safety record, and for this I commend them.

State fish and game agencies have been offering hunter safety programs started in 1949, and since then more than 35 million people have been certified. That is why I introduced this resolution.

I want to thank hunters for their commitment to safety, and honor those who teach hunting safety. Hunters have shown that they can proudly represent the sport and put safety first, and that is something that I am proud to support.

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

House Concurrent Resolution 193 recognizes all hunters for their continued commitment to safety and to increase awareness of the organizations and programs dedicated to hunting education and safety activities. There are currently 16 million hunters in the U.S., of which less than 1 percent incurred an injury during the last hunting season. Continued education on hunting safety will ensure lower injury rates for future hunting seasons. The success of these programs has allowed more than 35 million hunters to obtain certification. Fortunately, we can continue to see high safety records with responsible and safe hunters who are well educated on hunting safety.

I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 193.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, in 2006 there were over 16 million hunters in the United States, of which only .0013 percent incurred an injury during the past hunting season. To ensure and raise awareness for hunter safety, there are 70,000 hunter education instructors teaching hunter safety, ethics and conservation to approximately 750,000 students successfully each year.

Hunter safety can be contributed to hunter education training and the role of responsible hunters in the field. This helps to lower the incidence of hunting accidents, improve hunter behavior and restore many species of wildlife abundance.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative CHRISTOPHER CARNEY, for introducing this legislation, and urge swift passage of this bill.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 193.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A DAY OUGHT TO BE ESTABLISHED TO BRING AWARENESS TO THE ISSUE OF MISSING PERSONS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 303) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day ought to be established to bring awareness to the issue of missing persons.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 303

Whereas each year tens of thousands of people go missing in the United States;

Whereas, on any given day, there are as many as 100,000 active missing persons cases in the United States;

Whereas the Missing Persons File of the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) was implemented in 1975;

Whereas, in 2005, 109,531 persons were reported missing to law enforcement agencies nationwide, of whom 11,868 were between the ages of 18 and 20;

Whereas section 204 of the PROTECT Act, known as Suzanne's Law and passed by Congress on April 10, 2003, modifies section 3701(a) of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 5779(a)), so that agencies must enter records into the NCIC database for all missing persons under the age of 21;

Whereas Kristen's Act (42 U.S.C. 14665), passed in 1999, has established grants for organizations to, among other things, track missing persons and provide informational services to families and the public;

Whereas, according to the NCIC, 48,639 missing persons were located in 2005, an improvement of 4.2 percent from the previous year;

Whereas many persons reported missing may be victims of Alzheimer's disease or other health-related issues, or may be victims of foul play;

Whereas, regardless of age or circumstances, all missing persons have families who need support and guidance to endure the days, months, or years they may spend searching for their missing loved ones; and

Whereas it is important to applaud the committed efforts of families, law enforcement agencies, and concerned citizens who work to locate missing persons and to prevent all forms of victimization: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) a day ought to be established to bring awareness to the issue of missing persons; and

(2) the people of the United States should be encouraged to—

(A) observe the day with appropriate programs and activities; and

(B) support worthy initiatives and increased efforts to locate missing persons.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she might consume to the sponsor of this resolution, Representative KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DAVIS for his support of this resolution and for generously yielding.

I've introduced House Resolution 303 in order to allow all Americans to honor and reflect on the number of Americans who remain missing, and to remember their families and loved ones who hope and pray every day for their safe return.

□ 1430

This issue is especially significant for my constituents. On March 2, 1998, Suzanne Lyall, a 19-year-old sophomore at SUNY Albany, was kidnapped and never seen again. This crime captivated the country's attention and has left a permanent mark on the community that I serve. Over 9 years later, her case remains unsolved.

Tragically, similar situations occur every day in America. On any given day, there are as many as 100,000 active missing-person cases in the United States. In addition, missing-adult cases often go unreported in the media. Even though the first few days after a crime is committed are the most critical in solving a case, there can be significant delays in beginning the search for someone over the age of 18 who has gone missing. Sadly, in New York there are over 3,500 missing-person cases, including nearly 1,400 cases involving New Yorkers over the age of 18.

Furthermore, the statistics show that a disproportionate number of adults reported missing are college-aged women. Currently in New York State, over two-thirds of the college-aged individuals reported missing are female, and this group also makes up approximately half of all missing adults. It is important that the Federal Government partners with local law enforcement to protect young women as they attend college or enter the workforce.

I am honored to represent Suzanne's parents, Doug and Mary, who are leaders in New York and around the country in bringing attention to crimes involving young adults. They have used their personal nightmare to assist other parents and families who have had loved ones go missing. They founded the Center for Hope, an organization with the mission of providing resources to educate, assist, and support families and friends to cope with the disappearance of a loved one. The center works with the New York State and Federal

Government to improve our laws in order to prevent future abductions.

In 1983, President Reagan established May 25 as the National Missing Children's Day, and last May Americans marked the 25th National Missing Children's Day. This important day is set aside to draw attention to children who are still missing, whether they have been missing for a few days or for decades.

Yet a day has not yet been set aside to remember those Americans who are over the age of 18 and are missing from their families. With over 100,000 Americans unaccounted for, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons, and daughters, a day must be established to remind the public of those missing and our country's dedication to solving their cases and, hopefully, reuniting them with families and loved ones.

In 2001, former Governor George Pataki established April 6, Suzanne's birthday, as the State's Missing Persons Day in New York. It is my hope that this date can also become the national day of remembrance for all missing Americans. This day will allow Americans to appropriately remember the victims, their families, and the efforts of local law enforcement and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in unanimously approving this resolution and that the President will soon establish a day to bring awareness to the issue of missing persons.

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

House Resolution 303 establishes a day to bring awareness to the issues surrounding missing persons. I congratulate the sponsor on this bill.

Each year tens of thousands of people go missing in the United States. Probably there isn't a day goes by that some newspaper doesn't report either a child or adult that is missing. It is a national crisis affecting thousands of families. I think these families struggle through the loss and pain of losing their loved ones and often need support and guidance during the search for their missing friends or family members.

Through effective legislation, grants have been provided to our organizations tasked with tracking missing persons and provide much-needed support services to families. Legislation has also ensured that agencies are able to keep updated databases on missing persons. It's important that we take time to recognize and applaud the work of law enforcement agencies, concerned citizens, and, of course, the families who unite together to find their loved ones and support prevention efforts.

I urge the passage of this resolution.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,

I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H. Res. 303, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day ought to be established to bring awareness to the issue of missing persons.

H. Res. 303, which has 58 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND on April 17, 2007. H. Res. 303 was reported from the Oversight Committee on September 20, 2007, by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, reports of missing persons have increased sixfold in the past 25 years, from roughly 150,000 people in 1980 to about 900,000 this year. The CourtTV's Crime Library estimates that 2,300 people are reported missing every day in America.

I support establishing a day to bring awareness to the issue of missing persons. We should all reflect to remember the victims, their families, and local law enforcement and community volunteers who help search for missing individuals. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, even as we speak, in my city in the area where I live, there is a young woman who has been missing now for several days, and it has created a tremendous outpouring of empathy and sympathy on the part of the people for her parents and other family members who are searching diligently, hoping and praying that she will be found safely.

So, Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, for introducing this legislation and urge its swift passage.

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

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 303.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 584) supporting the goals and ideals of "National Life Insurance Awareness Month".

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 584

Whereas life insurance is an essential part of a sound financial plan;

Whereas life insurance provides financial security for families by helping surviving members meet immediate and long-term financial obligations and objectives in the event of a premature death in their family;