

described by her family as a gentle, generous, soft-spoken woman who loved the Lord. She loved to shop and was always smiling. She had worked in customer service at Von Maur for about 8 years.

We have 65-year-old John McDonald, retired from Northern Natural Gas, whose daughter in fact worked with me in my law office. John was one of the heroes, when he left his place of safety to come out and start yelling, some people described it as rather passionately, at the gunman, to distract him from turning around, and a few feet away was a room where 12 other innocent people were holed up. John was shot. Amazingly, though, he was the last victim before the gunman turned the gun on himself.

The next victim, 48-year-old Gary Scharf, who just stopped by Von Maur to pick up some Christmas presents before catching a flight out of Omaha. He grew up on a ranch outside Curtis, Nebraska, where his funeral was held. He was a proud father who leaves behind a 19-year-old son.

Fifty-six-old Gary Joy was someone everyone could count on. He loved his job and liked to write poetry. His family followed his instructions to have his organs donated. They say it was just like Gary, to help someone else. His love was with us again, if not only in spirit.

There was 36-year-old Angie Schuster, born on Valentine's Day. Her boyfriend planned to give her an engagement ring this Christmas. The priest at her funeral called Angie and her soon-to-be fiance's love the "real thing."

We have 67-year-old Janet Jorgensen, who just celebrated her golden anniversary, 50 years of marriage to her husband Ron just a few months ago. She went above and beyond at Van Maur, as there were many times she would shop for customers or deliver items to customers' homes. She was the seamstress and cake-maker of the family; and for her three children and eight grandchildren, she will be missed.

There was 47-year-old Beverly Flynn. She took a part-time job at Von Maur because she was a mother of three beautiful girls. She was also a real estate agent, and her trademark was planting rosebushes in the yard of every new homeowner.

The youngest victim, 24-year-old Maggie Webb, was the new store manager of Von Maur, one of Omaha's finest department stores. Coworkers described her as one of the nicest people they had ever worked for, someone whose whole face lit up when she smiled. A lot of people will miss her service and smile.

Last, I want to thank our first responders. The spirit of Omaha showed itself through the efforts of our first responders. The first phone call from the mall came to 911 dispatchers at 1:42. No voice was on the line. All that was heard were gunshots. What an eerie call.

By the time the first responders arrived, just under 6 minutes later, the Omaha sheriff opens the doors and enters the store. What a heroic effort by our police officers, paramedics, firefighters, and others, when they got to the mall and saw such a grisly scene. The images they saw will likely haunt them for the rest of their lives. I thank the men and women who came to face the horror. Thank you for keeping us safe and saving lives. I also want to praise the spirit of Omaha for coming together after this tragedy.

In closing, I am deeply saddened by the senseless act from a troubled and disturbed teenager. It's something our city will never forget. It has scarred the very heart of our community. But I am proud of our community for its reaction and the way we came together to support the victims and begin the healing of our city.

Thank you once again to Government Reform for allowing this resolution to come forward and be part of the continuing healing in Omaha.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from the First Congressional District of Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding, and I also wish to thank my colleague, Congressman TERRY, for introducing this important resolution.

As we have heard, Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, December 5, the enthusiasm of the holiday season came to an abrupt halt with an act of senseless brutality at the Westroads Mall in Omaha, Nebraska.

Mr. Speaker, as the Nation mourns the eight victims who were killed and the three who were wounded, and, I should add, I appreciate Mr. TERRY's lengthy description of these innocent persons and their lives, I think it is also important and appropriate to recognize their uncommon heroics and great sacrifices that are now just coming to light. If there is a comfort in the midst of this difficult time, it is the beauty of the human spirit and the good that stood in the midst of this horror and violence.

Dianne Clavin Trent of Omaha was a 53-year-old former airline flight attendant who had worked for 8 years in customer service at the Von Maur store in the Westroads Mall. As we have now learned, Dianne did not flee when she saw the gunman. She stood. She dialed 911 and gave a description of him, and then he turned on her.

Gary Scharf, 48 years old, of Lincoln, Nebraska, my hometown, was an agricultural chemical sales manager in the mall to buy a dress shirt. When he heard the gunshots, Gary also called 911. It appears then that he ran from where he was safe up to where the shooting was taking place. As he ran up the escalator, he yelled out, "I called 911" in an apparent attempt to

distract the gunman. He also pulled a woman off the escalator out of harm's way before the gunman turned on him.

Mr. Speaker, I happened to know Gary and I am proud to call him a friend.

John McDonald was a 65-year-old grandfather and retired natural gas company manager living in Council Bluffs. When the rampage began, John took cover with his wife in the customer service area. As the gunman entered the customer service area, John stood and confronted him, and he too was shot. As now seems apparent, John's courage may have saved the lives of many other people nearby.

Dianne, Gary and John, innocently shopping one minute, decided in an instant to let go of a natural tendency to self-preservation and to make a great sacrifice for their fellow man. Others may have acted similarly in ways that we may never know.

Mr. Speaker, I thought you and the American people should know of this new information. God bless all those who lost their lives or were injured that day, and God bless their loved ones.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, once again, I express the deep condolences and regrets of, I know, the entire House for the Omaha tragedy, particularly coming at this time when the whole country comes together in great love and respect.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 856.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. NORTON. 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 motion will be postponed.

HONORING LOCAL AND STATE FIRST RESPONDERS, AND THE CITIZENS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST IN FACING THE SEVERE WINTER STORM OF DECEMBER 2 AND 3, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 851) honoring local and State first responders, and the citizens of the Pacific Northwest in facing the severe winter storm of December 2 and 3, 2007.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 851

Whereas on December 2 and 3, 2007, a storm with winds exceeding 120 miles per hour struck Oregon and Washington, toppled trees, felled power lines, and destroyed homes and businesses;

Whereas more than ten inches of rain fell in 24 hours, inundating parts of Oregon and Washington, causing rivers to overflow, flooding homes, schools, businesses, and roads;

Whereas the combination of hurricane-force winds and torrential rains caused devastating damage that isolated towns, left citizens without housing, transportation, communications, water, heat, or electricity;

Whereas local and State emergency personnel responded heroically and without hesitation to aid in rescue, recovery, and assistance efforts;

Whereas the Oregon and Washington National Guard and the U.S. Coast Guard rescued hundreds of individuals trapped in or on their homes. Oregonians and Washingtonians became extraordinary citizens by opening their hearts and their homes.

Whereas the people of Oregon and Washington rose to become extraordinary citizens by helping each other, opening their homes, schools, churches, and businesses to shelter their neighbors;

Whereas amateur radio operators performed vital communication duties in assisting first responders;

Whereas the National Weather Service forecasts helped avert even greater casualties and damage;

Whereas people have perished in the storm; Whereas homes, businesses, schools, and roads have been closed;

Whereas many long-term effects of the storm are still unknown; and

Whereas thousands of people of the Pacific Northwest are without power, water, or road access; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the citizens of the Pacific Northwest for their courage in facing the storm and efforts in helping their neighbors in a time of great need;

(2) honors the National Weather Service, State and local police officers, fire fighters, local rescue personnel, other first responders, and amateur radio operators for their efforts in the face of the severe storm;

(3) extends its thoughts and prayers to those whose lives have been devastated, and who have lost their housing, transportation, communications, water, heat, or electricity; and

(4) extends its profound and deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those who perished.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 851, honoring local and State first respond-

ers and the citizens of the Pacific Northwest in facing the severe winter storm of December 2 and 3, 2007. H. Res. 851 was introduced by Representative DAVID WU on December 6, 2007. This measure, which has been cosponsored by 83 Members, has the support of the entire Oregon congressional delegation.

On December 2 and 3, 2007, a severe storm hit the Pacific Northwest, destroying homes, schools, businesses and roads, thus leaving thousands of people in Oregon and Washington without power, water, or road access. The Oregon and Washington National Guard and the U.S. Coast Guard rescued hundreds of individuals trapped in or on their homes. Oregonians and Washingtonians became extraordinary citizens by opening their hearts and their homes.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending the first responders and citizens who helped in time of need. I urge the swift passage of this resolution.

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

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Mr. ISSA. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in bipartisan support of this resolution with my colleague from the District of Columbia in honoring the first responders and citizens who were lost and who dealt with this extreme storm in such a valiant way.

All of us know the beauty of Mount St. Helens. All of us know the beauty of the region, but few of us outside the region can understand the strength of the storm that flooded whole communities, battered trees, roadways, and destroyed power for entire communities and left at least eight dead. In the aftermath, as the waters recede, we in Congress join with the people of Oregon and Washington in banding together to rebuild their community and their tattered region. But more importantly, we thank the first responders who, as appropriately people sought cover and safety, went out to deal with the effects of this storm at risk of life and limb.

I yield back the balance of my time and urge support for this important resolution.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and great feeling of sympathy and of great respect for those who have suffered so courageously through this storm that I yield to Mr. DAVID WU.

Mr. WU. I thank the gentlelady.

Mr. Speaker, between December 1 and December 3, the States of Oregon and Washington were battered by an exceptionally severe storm. One wind measurement instrument clocked at 129 miles an hour before it blew over, and I am told by a helicopter pilot that the U.S. Coast Guard measured winds up to 150 miles an hour. This is the first time that the National Weather Service used the term ‘hurricane’ in

connection with a storm outside of the tropics or subtropics, certainly as far north as latitude 45 where we are. We set an unfortunate record.

We have frequent storms in the Pacific Northwest, but what set this one apart is that while the typical winter storm may bring winds of 70 or 100 miles an hour for a few hours to coastal Oregon, this storm brought sustained winds of 85 to 100 miles per hour for 24 hours and gusts up to 130, 150 miles an hour. Entire swaths of trees were uprooted or snapped off. Homes were flooded. Twelve to 14 inches of rain fell in a 24-hour period in some parts of the coast range, and both Interstate 5 and the main Amtrak line on the west coast were closed for a period of time.

The folks who live in the coast range and on the coast were especially hard hit. But we are a hardy people who live in this paradise, and people took care of themselves. They immediately reached out to their neighbors. They helped each other, pulled together as a community, and we got through this together.

Unfortunately, several people perished, many people were injured. And many people went without heat or electricity or telephone service, were cut off from the world and were cut off by landslides on the roads, also, in addition to the loss of communication. But people got through this together in the great tradition of America and the great tradition of the Northwest and of Oregon.

I would like to especially commend the local and State first responders, the Oregon National Guard, the United States Coast Guard, the Oregon Red Cross, and the good works of the State of Oregon in facing this very, very severe storm. Even during the torrential rain and the winds, the good citizens of Oregon and Washington came to one another’s assistance. There are people who told me that they knew that someone was trapped in a home, and they went in to get them even though there were shingles and pieces of glass flying through the air hard enough to stick into the side of homes. And one person went into a home where a piece of sheet metal was flapping in the wind, knowing that if that sheet metal came off that it would become a dangerous projectile, but he went in to get the resident out.

City Councilor Mark Kujala of Warrenton stayed by the phones for 24 hours to take calls and answer calls so that people would not feel isolated and cut off, so that they could get some information. KMUN in Astoria, Oregon, because there was a severe storm a year ago, prepared for this by putting up a propane tank. And even though a tree fell on its roof and damaged the structure severely, KMUN stayed on the air all through the storm and gave the people of the north Oregon coast a sense of connection to what was happening in the outside world. And I want to commend the amateur radio operators, the folks who kept parts of the

local telephone system operating, and others, for keeping our communities together through the darkness, the cold, and the isolation when most of the phone lines went down.

The immediate efforts of first responders as well as local and State officials are to be applauded. And I want to express a special thanks to the U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard lost all of their communication. They lost their Internet. They lost their telephones. They lost their cell phones. They were down to VHF radio, 1950s technology, to communicate with other first responders and themselves, and yet, they went out and picked people off the roofs, went into homes. One of the rescuers went into a home that was flooded up to chest level and the lights were still on in the room where this disabled individual was located, and yet this rescue swimmer went in there with the electricity on and got the person out and into a rescue helicopter.

The National Guard performed heroic efforts. Camp Rilea became a safety shelter, kind of a dry safe harbor for the people of the north coast. They distributed generator fuel to so many people who were trying to run their own generators when the power went down, and at one point they were down to their last 30, 60, 90 minutes of fuel. But then they got resupplied and were able to help continue to keep other folks' generators working. And the radio station in Seaside had their antenna blown down, but they got right back up the next day when it was safe to get the antenna back up and get a generator going and kept folks informed.

I have tried to work closely with Governor Kulongoski, and he has been terrific through this entire episode. It was a Sunday-Monday storm, and I couldn't get a phone call through to folk in the area until Wednesday night, but Governor Kulongoski toured the area Tuesday afternoon and was on the phone with me Tuesday afternoon to tell me some of the things that were needed. The Governor and I work hard to make sure that both the State and the Federal components of recovery and prevention for the future, that we do our jobs, that we have not too much government but all the government that we need to keep Americans safe, to enable us to pull together in times of crisis and need.

Life is uncertain in the paradise that we call the Pacific Northwest. It has sometimes been referred to as the land of fire and ice. We have regular storms, periodic fires, and rare huge earthquakes and tsunami. To paraphrase an author of the region: We are always searching for hardy people to match this challenging land. And I think that we do have those people.

Life in the paradise we call home may be uncertain, but we know that we are a match for it and we shall meet the challenges together. A long road of recovery lies ahead, but like the pioneers of old, we will bring everyone to

the finish line together. No one will be left behind. No one will be forgotten. I want to salute the citizens of the Pacific Northwest, the first responders, and everyone else who came from the region to help out in our time of need. Thank you.

Mr. ISSA. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. I want to say to my good friend from Oregon that his resolution not only informs us about the heroic efforts of first responders and the residents, but educates us about places where catastrophic storms may occur unexpectedly. It sounds as though the States of Oregon and Washington had a short-term version of Katrina and managed somehow to deal with it themselves. So we commend first responders and citizens of both States.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, on December 2 and 3, a severe winter storm swept across Oregon and Washington State. Countless first responders came to the aid of those in need and worked tirelessly to restore order in the aftermath of the storm. I strongly support H. Res. 851 in recognition of the dedication, service, and courage shown by these men and women.

The winter storm affected dozens of communities and many thousands of people in Washington and Oregon, including my constituents in the Ninth District of Washington. It struck the Pacific Northwest with a ferocity that is rarely seen in the region. The storm brought winds that exceeded 100 miles per hour, saturated the region with 10 inches of rain in a 24-hour period, and led to the loss of human lives. Homes and businesses were flooded, roads and thoroughfares were damaged or swept away, and thousands of citizens were left without electricity, heat, water, transportation, or adequate shelter.

Throughout and following the storm, the men and women of local and state police agencies, fire and rescue groups, local and state emergency first-response organizations, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Oregon and Washington National Guard were ready to respond to the extraordinary circumstances. They rescued those trapped by the rising waters, provided aid to those in need of critical assistance, and helped to limit the ill effects of this tragic weather event.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I want to call particular attention to the service of the Washington National Guard. Some 400 Washington National Guard Members, 70 vehicles, and 11 teams supported response and recovery operations, conducted house-to-house searches, and provided needed food, water, and other emergency provisions. In cooperation with many other local, State, and Federal first responders, the men and women of the Washington State National Guard performed their duty admirably, and I am very grateful to them.

Please join me in honoring the Washington State National Guard and recognizing the many other first responders for their contributions during the winter storm of early December. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 851.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARDOZA). The question is on the mo-

tion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 851.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. NORTON. 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 motion will be postponed.

SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL EXPLANATORY OF APPROPRIATIONS MEASURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 869, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations submitted explanatory material relating to appropriations measures for fiscal year 2008. The contents of this submission will be published in Book II of this RECORD.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF OKLAHOMA STATEHOOD

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 254) recognizing and celebrating the centennial of Oklahoma statehood.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 254

Whereas on November 16, 1907, Oklahoma officially became the 46th State of the Union;

Whereas prior to becoming a State, Oklahoma was designated as Indian Territory, providing a vibrant history and culture that continues to enrich the lives of its citizens;

Whereas the State of Oklahoma was shaped by those adventurous and daring individuals who embraced the spirit of this great Nation as they opened the frontier of the American West;

Whereas generations of proud people from all backgrounds have called Oklahoma their home and have contributed to its spirited history;

Whereas these hearty and resilient people have defined what has come to be known as the spirit of Oklahoma through their strength, character, and persistent strides toward a bright future;

Whereas the continued strength, initiative, and pursuit of excellence displayed by the citizens of the State of Oklahoma have produced its vibrant economy and secured it as a place of opportunity and progress now and for future generations;

Whereas the solid foundation of family and community embraced by the citizens of Oklahoma has been a constant guide and source of strength to those citizens throughout its history and will remain so long into its future;

Whereas the natural beauty and abundant resources of the State of Oklahoma support a quality of life for its citizens that is unsurpassed; and