CÉSAR CHÁVEZ

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, on the eightieth anniversary of César Chávez' birth, it is appropriate to reflect on the impact his life and work has had on our Nation. As the founder of the United Farm Workers, Chávez was able to bring about great and positive change for many of the Nation's most vulnerable workers, notwithstanding the seemingly insurmountable obstacles confronting him. He was a remarkable man, who not only fought for the basic human rights of a too often neglected segment of our country, but he went on to inspire a whole new generation of activists who would later carry on his path-breaking work.

César Chávez understood the poverty and disenfranchisement of his fellow farm workers, having grown up working in the fields to support his own family. He fought for fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits and humane living conditions for farm laborers around the country. And this legacy carries us forward today.

During my time in the California State Senate I supported legislation to designate a State holiday in honor of this remarkable leader. California is currently one of only eight States in the Nation that officially celebrate César Chávez' accomplishments with a holiday, and it has proven an excellent opportunity to educate adults and children about his important effect on social justice and civil rights. That is why I support the effort to create a national holiday to honor César Chávez and share his achievements with the entire Nation.

César Chávez had a motto, sí se puede (it can be done). This message continues to embody Chávez's legacy by inspiring Americans to demand social justice and civil rights. I call upon our community and our country to join me in honoring the contributions and services of a true American hero.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL ON NATIONAL SECURITY LETTERS

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, we now know that the FBI may have violated the law or government policies as many as 3,000 times in the use of National Security Letters.

This body has been deeply deficient in its oversight of how NSLs are used, and legislative changes to current law are clearly needed in light of these stunning abuses. That is why the bill I am reintroducing today is even more important now than when I and others first introduced it in December 2005.

I doubt anyone disagrees that law enforcement must be armed with the necessary tools to catch terrorists, spies and others who threaten U.S. national security, but we must do so in a manner that protects the cherished liberty and privacy expectations of all Americans.

This legislation will strengthen accountability and oversight of NSLs, which, to remind my colleagues, are requests for personal data and records issued directly by government agencies without the approval of a judge.

We knew 16 months ago about the lack of checks and balances on both the front and back end of the NSL process—and we knew of the almost non-existent congressional oversight of their use.

Currently, Congress receives a one-page summary listing aggregate numbers of NSLs employed over the course of 6 months. These broad summaries are often delivered as much as a year late or longer. This was grossly inadequate in 2005, and is a bone-rattling embarrassment in 2007.

This bill would make the following changes to the use of NSLs. On the front-end, the bill would: Require the government to show a specific connection to a terrorist or foreign power before an NSL could be issued—a return to the pre-Patriot Act standard; require NSLs to be approved by a FISA court or designated Federal magistrate judge; and require the FISA court to set up an electronic system for filing NSL applications, so that requests are expedited and will not slow down investigations.

On the back-end, this legislation would: Provide a Sense of Congress that, in cases where an NSL recipient challenges the ''gag''/non-disclosure requirement, the government's certification that harm to national security will occur shall be treated as a 'rebuttable' presumption, not as ''conclusive'' evidence that harm would occur; require minimization procedures to ensure destruction of information obtained through NSL requests that is no longer needed; and require detailed semi-annual reports to the Congressional Intelligence and Judiciary Committees on all NSLs issued, minimization procedures, court challenges, and how NSLs aided investigations and prosecutions.

Now, more than ever, Congress must reassert its oversight prerogatives not only to regain control of a program that the Executive Branch allowed to morph into an out-of-control beast, but to reassure the American people that their interests and most fundamental rights are being protected.

In the 109th Congress, the bill was coauthored by the present Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and all Democrats then on the Intelligence Committee. It was also endorsed by key civil liberties groups. I urge its broad support again.

HONORING LT ADAM A. DYER

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Lieutenant Adam A. Dyer of Lafayette, Louisiana. A U.S. Naval Aviator, Lieutenant Dyer's life was tragically cut short on January 26, 2007 when a Navy Knighthawk helicopter carrying him and three other crew members crashed into the Pacific Ocean while conducting a routine training mission near San Clemente Island, California.

Madam Speaker, Adam Dyer was an American patriot from day one. A native of Lafayette, Louisiana, he attended Lafayette High School and graduated from the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts in Natchitoches, Louisiana. He went on to receive a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Louisiana State University in 2002. While attending college Adam held several jobs, and at the time of his graduation worked for the State of Louisiana as an interpreter in the Department of Tourism.

As a young Boy Scout, Adam attained the distinct honor of Eagle Scout and, following a tradition of that honor, always felt a natural calling to serve his Nation. For a Boy Scout project, Adam once wrote that his goal was to become a Navy pilot. In December 2002, his goal was accomplished when he was commissioned as a United States Naval Officer.

After being commissioned, Lt. Dyer completed primary and advanced flight training in Pensacola, Florida. During training, Lt. Dyer's instructors often challenged his knowledge, but they soon came to realize he had a gifted intellect as well as a photographic memory. This allowed him to recite correct procedures back to his instructors verbatim, including the page numbers.

On November 5, 2004 Lt. Dyer was designated a Naval Aviator. He was then assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 3 in San Diego, California for training in the MH–60S, and upon completion reassigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 21. Lt. Dyer was also instrumental in the formation of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 23. In 2005, he participated in hurricane relief operations in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina, for which he was awarded the Joint Service Achievement Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Lt. Dyer was deployed to the Middle East twice. During these missions, he and his team were credited with rescuing numerous people. His awards include the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service and Expeditionary Medals.

Before his tragic and untimely death on January 26, 2007, he was in training to return to the Middle East for a third tour of duty.

Lt. Dyer realized his lifelong dream of being a Navy pilot, and in his final moments, he sacrificed his life as unselfishly as he lived it, trying to save those around him. Whatever the circumstances surrounding his all too sudden death, there is no doubt that to the point of his last breath, Lt. Dyer's efforts were focused more on saving his crew than on saving himself.

Lt. Dyer came from a military-oriented family, with his father and both grandfathers having served in the military. In addition to flying helicopters, Lt. Dyer loved golf and running. His family and friends remember him as a strong person who would never quit anything, no matter how hard things were. He always saw things through from start to finish. As a Naval Aviator, Lt. Dyer was the consummate professional. He knew his aircraft and his procedures backwards and forwards. Though certainly possessing natural talent, Lt. Dyer's best attributes were his never-ending desire to learn, the great responsibility he felt for his crew, and the fact that he was a loyal friend.

Lt. Dyer was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on March 9, 2007. He is survived by his parents, David and Stephanie Dyer, and a sister, Lindsay Dyer, of Lafayette, Louisiana.