

shot and killed in the line of duty 10 years ago on July 24, 1998.

Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson represented the very best of the U.S. Capitol Police in their dedication and service to Congress. Each man served the force honorably for 18 years before his untimely death. They assumed great personal risk to safeguard the lives of visitors to the Capitol, Members of Congress, and Congressional staff every day. Their brave actions on that tragic day 10 years ago undoubtedly helped to protect hundreds of innocent lives and illustrated the commitment demonstrated by every sworn member of the U.S. Capitol Police.

While I never personally met Officer Chestnut or Detective Gibson, I have witnessed first-hand their legacy at the Capitol. Their example continues to inspire police officers, Members, and staff alike. The men and women who protect the Capitol complex and community are top-notch professionals who dedicate their time, energy, and prodigious skill to their work. I thank them all from the bottom of my heart.

The tragic loss of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson is not one that we will ever forget. I know that Congress and the Capitol Police will continue to honor their memory and their ultimate sacrifice as we seek to ensure the safety of one of the most recognizable symbols of freedom and democracy today—our Capitol.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRIBAL LAW AND ORDER ACT OF 2008

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2008. I want to thank Senator DORGAN and his colleagues and staff on the Senate Indian Affairs Committee for their tireless dedication to addressing the needs of law enforcement and justice services in Indian Country. I am proud to sponsor the companion legislation in the House of Representatives.

In June 2007, the House Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing on the Lower Brule Reservation in south central South Dakota. Entitled, The Needs and Challenges of Tribal Law Enforcement in Indian Reservations, tribal leaders and law enforcement officials from eight tribes testified for the need to improve government-to-government consultations between tribes and the federal agencies charged with supporting their law enforcement goals. Witnesses explained the need for more resources for officers, equipment, jails, and tribal courts. One witness, Chairman Joseph Brings Plenty of the Cheyenne River Reservation, explained that on his reservation, there are an average of only three officers per shift to cover nineteen communities with 15,000 people and an area approximately the size of Connecticut. On this large, land-based reservation, each officer covers an average of 450 miles of road in one 8 hour shift. In 2006 alone, the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe's police department responded to 11,488 calls for service and made 11,791 arrests. From my work with tribal communities in South Dakota

and as a Member of the Committee on Natural Resources, I know that Cheyenne River is not an extreme case. The experiences and frustrations articulated by Chairman Brings Plenty resonate with tribal leaders across the United States.

The Tribal Law and Order Act is an important step to addressing the complex and broken system of law and order in Indian Country. This bill would clarify the responsibilities of Federal, State, tribal, and local governments with respect to crimes committed in tribal communities; increase coordination and communication among Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies; empower tribal governments with the authority, resources, and information necessary to safely and effectively provide for the public's safety in tribal communities; reduce the prevalence of violent crime in tribal communities and to combat violence against Indian and Alaska Native women; address and prevent drug trafficking and reduce rates of alcohol and drug addiction in Indian country; and increase and standardize the collection of criminal data and the sharing of criminal history information among Federal, State, and tribal officials responsible for responding to and investigating crimes in tribal communities.

The Senate Indian Affairs Committee has held numerous hearings and has reached out to tribes across the United States while crafting this bill, and I appreciate their efforts to address the concerns raised by tribal members and leaders. I recognize that this bill alone will not solve the problems raised by tribes in these consultations and hearings. As such, I will continue to work for increased funding for law enforcement personnel, detention facilities, equipment and training, tribal courts, and other components required for a successful justice system. I will continue to hold Bureau of Indian Affairs accountable for upholding the trust responsibility within the realm of law enforcement. Ultimately, I believe that this bill offers important and necessary tools in our shared goal of making Indian Country a safer place to be.

CONGRATULATING MIKE MCROBERTS

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mike McRoberts on his retirement after 36 years of working for John Deere and 8 years serving as Shop Chairman. Mike McRoberts served as a Union Steward from 1979 until 1990 when he became a Committee Man. After ten years in that position he became Shop Chairman and has been serving in that position up to the present day.

Mike has been a strong advocate for the 3,000 members of Local 838, the largest local within John Deere. Mike has been at the table for all bargaining meetings between John Deere and UAW since 1991, and has overseen all contracts since that time. Mike was also very instrumental in the UAW/John Deere apprenticeship programs and skilled tradesman programs. Most importantly, Mike was a great friend and mentor to all of the workers

at John Deere and taught young people how to be good officers for the local and good committeemen. I know that Mike will be greatly missed by his colleagues at John Deere and the union. I wish him the best in his retirement and future endeavors, and thank him for his many years of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 512 on H.R. 6493, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

AVIATION SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6493, the Aviation Safety Enhancement Act.

Over the last few years we have heard a number of disturbing reports that the Federal Aviation Administration, FAA, is failing in its mandate to ensure the safety of airline passengers. Last year we discovered that the FAA had allowed Southwest Airlines to fly 117 planes that had not received their mandatory inspections. We learned of two near midair collisions at Newark Airport in my home state of New Jersey. In meetings with Air Traffic Controllers I have been told that these near misses were caused by pilot confusion over last minute and unpublished route changes by the FAA. Rather than address serious concerns about the safety of our nation's air travelers, the FAA has attempted to hide these complaints and issues. In some of these cases, the FAA has retaliated against whistleblowers who disclosed these issues and the number of whistleblower protection claims filed by FAA employees has tripled over the last year.

It is difficult to overstate how important whistleblowers are in the policy process. They are often the human face that confirms the existence of a tangible, even life-threatening problem in a federal agency. Bush Administration officials threatened Jack Spadaro, the former head of the National Mine Health and Safety Academy, MSHA, with the loss of his job when he tried to investigate a mining accident that occurred in 2000. In 2005, the Forest Service fired Douglas Parker, a 40 year employee of the service, after he filed a whistleblower complaint about the improper use of pesticides across several forests in New Mexico and Arizona. Fredrick Whitehurst, a longtime FBI bomb residue expert, filed whistleblower complaints after he pointed out major problems in the FBI's crime lab. I could go on at length about these kinds of cases, but I think you get my point. Outside of the national security community, protecting whistleblowers is perhaps more important in the transportation sector than anywhere else. If the FAA is

being too cozy with industry and pressuring maintenance personnel to reduce the number of violations they cite among the carriers, we need to know that so we can stop it. If the FAA is trying to implement a dangerous and inadequately tested national air traffic pattern change and air traffic controllers believe people will die as a result, we need to know that so we can stop it. This legislation would help us to do that.

Among its provisions, H.R. 6493 would create an independent office of Aviation Safety Whistleblower Protection within the FAA. This office would be responsible for receiving complaints and information from FAA and airline employees about possible violations of safety regulations, federal laws, and standards. This office would allow FAA and airline employees to disclose anonymously their safety concerns without fear of retaliation.

RECALLING THE INFAMOUS ANNI- VERSARY OF THE INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recall the brutal invasion of Cyprus that occurred thirty-four years ago on July 20, 1974.

The people of Cyprus continue to suffer the consequences of that contemptible invasion. Even now, Turkish troops continue to illegally occupy Cyprus. The island remains torn by a militarized fence that slices a 113-mile line across the island.

I encourage both sides to fully comply with the guiding principles of the July 8, 2006 agreement. This agreement seeks to establish working groups that can operate together to reunify Cyprus into one bizonal, bicomunal federation. The July 8 agreement is an important achievement which gives us great cause to remain optimistic that a resolution is possible.

While we can mark the significance of the July 8 agreement, we cannot celebrate until the goal of a unified Cyprus is fully and finally realized. We cannot celebrate until the anniversary of the July 20 invasion is no longer a source of pain for Cypriots, and barbed wire fence no longer splits Cyprus into two disparate sections. The United States, the European Union, and the United Nations have all expressed their support for a solution that will reunify Cyprus. With the steadfast determination of the international community and the people of Cyprus, we will persist until the goal of a free, undivided Cyprus is realized at last.

Madam Speaker, I remain hopeful that Cyprus will once again be free and undivided. After thirty-four years of division, illegal occupation and oppression, the long-suffering Cypriot people deserve to live in freedom and unity today.

HONORING AN ACHIEVEMENT OF THE UCWIP INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one achievement of my former intern, Anu Ambikaipalan who participated in the Australian Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, UCWIP. After an experience in Washington, she returned to Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia where she will soon graduate and pursue a career in law at a prestigious local firm.

Ms. Ambikaipalan was recently distinguished as a leader in her academic pursuits and was asked to deliver a keynote speech at a breakfast reception honoring "Women in the Law." I commend to your attention the insightful text of her speech to reiterate the importance of providing professional development opportunities for youth on Capitol Hill and how these experiences can translate into successful contributions to communities, even on the other side of the world. As Members of Congress, we must continue to support initiatives like the UCWIP which not only improve the lives of our constituents, but engage the global community. The text of her speech follows:

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. It's great to see so many people here today, and especially university students. Being able to sleep in till 12 noon is one of the prized possessions of a university student, so I'm glad you could all make it.

It is indeed a privilege to be able to speak in front of so many accomplished women and men in the law here. I'd like to thank the Victorian Council of Law Students' Society and the convener of today's breakfast, Katie Elder, for asking me to speak to you this morning on my experience as an Intern in Congress in Washington, D.C., through the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program or the UCWIP.

In the summer of 2007, I along with 11 other Australian university students, were fortunate enough to receive the opportunity to work as Interns in the U.S. Congress.

As exciting as this was, I was brought back to reality when the response given by my friends to my impending internship was—'So, is it like the West Wing?' or 'An Intern?' . . . Like Monica Lewinsky?'

The UCWIP is a program run by Mr. Eric Federling, who directs and manages the program pro bono. It is now in its tenth year and includes 8 participating Australian universities from around Australia with approximately 60 applicants a year.

Applicants are required to choose from 13 Congressional offices which participated in the program. My first preference was an African American Congressman, Mr. Alcee Hastings, who represented the 23rd district of Florida. I chose Congressman Hastings because of his strong stance on racial equality and social justice. Having been in Congress for almost 18 years, the Congressman is an important member of the Democrat party's leadership and often champions the rights of minority groups.

When I arrived in Washington, D.C., in January 2007, I had no idea that the next two months would be a life changing experience.

I remember walking through the hallowed halls of Congress on the first day, nervous but also in complete and utter wonderment. As the weeks went on, I tried not to become too complacent as to where I was. Every

morning I would take the long route to my office so I could see the Capitol Building and remind myself that I was working at the centre of global politics.

When we arrived on Capitol Hill, the U.S. was witnessing monumental changes, with the Democrats regaining the majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate. The highlight for me personally, was when my Congressman gave me his only ticket to the historical swearing in of the first female Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi.

The biggest talking point in Congress with the change in power was the Iraq War and the troop surge.

We were fortunate enough to see both Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright give testimonies before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in relation to the troop surge.

As my Congressman sits on the Intelligence Committee, I was lucky enough to attend one of the very rare open Intelligence Committee hearings with Hon. John Negroponte, Director of National Intelligence and General Michael Hayden, Director of the CIA as witnesses.

However, the UCWIP was not all about work and serious political issues. The program is established to allow participants to gain a well-rounded appreciation of American culture and history. We were given a guided tour of the battlefields of Gettysburg, visited Philadelphia and met extraordinary individuals such as Mr. Joe Ichiuji, a Japanese-American who fought for the U.S. army in World War II, while his family were detained in concentration camps in America because of their Japanese descent.

We also attended major social events such as the inaugural ball for the new mayor of Washington, D.C., Adrian Fenty and the annual Roe v. Wade dinner run by the National Abortion Rights Action League, Pro-Choice America.

The most significant part of my internship was the opportunity to develop legislation to combat gang violence which the Congressman could introduce into this Congress.

This issue came to the forefront after the rapid increase in deaths resulting from gang violence in the Congressman's district. By the 5th January 2007, 8 people had been killed from gang violence. That was more than one person a day. One of those killed was a 2 year old boy who was left in the car as his parents fled from a drive-by shooting.

Since I had very little knowledge of gang violence, I decided to put my years of researching for law assignments into good use. I jumped onto Google. As I scrawled through pages of information, I realized that I had just opened Pandora's Box. Gang violence in America is one of the deadliest and most dangerous activities on the streets, and its scourge has permeated into mainstream American culture through music, movies and television.

Through my research, I discovered that the two problem areas were: (1) trying to deter youths from entering gangs and (2) the high rate of re-offending by youths once they were released from juvenile detention.

Looking through the limited legislation that had already been put through Congress, it was evident a fresh new approach was required. Clearly, the problem will never be solved by middle-aged, college educated, men and women from privileged backgrounds sitting on Capitol Hill, who are so far dissociated from the unemployed, impoverished and generally black young men who roam the streets, searching for drugs and money in order to survive. A connection has to be established between those making the law and the young people on American streets who live day by day in fear of their lives and in the shadows of gang violence.