

rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 307.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1330

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THOSE AFFECTED BY THE DEVASTATING SHOOTING INCIDENT AT NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1007) expressing the condolences of the House to those affected by the devastating shooting incident of February 14, 2008, at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1007

Whereas on Thursday, February 14, 2008, a gunman entered a lecture hall on the campus of Northern Illinois University and opened fire on the students assembled there;

Whereas the gunman took the lives of 5 students and wounded 17 more;

Whereas the 5 students who lost their lives that day were—

(1) Gayle Dubowski, age 20, of Carol Stream, Illinois, a devout member of her church who sang in the church choir and worked as a camp counselor and volunteer in rural Kentucky;

(2) Catalina “Cati” Garcia, age 20, of Cicero, Illinois, a first-generation American who had hoped to be a teacher, was her family’s “princess” and inspiration, and was rarely seen without a beaming smile;

(3) Julianna Gehant, age 32, of Mendota, Illinois, who dreamed of becoming a teacher, and who spent more than 12 years in the United States Army and Army Reserve, serving our Nation and saving money for college;

(4) Ryanne Mace, age 19, of Carpentersville, Illinois, a much-loved only child who was rarely without a warm smile and hoped to be a counselor so she could help others; and

(5) Daniel Parmenter, age 20, of Westchester, Illinois, “Danny” to his friends, a 6-foot, 5-inch rugby player with a gentle spirit and bright future, who died trying to protect his girlfriend from gunfire;

Whereas the Northern Illinois University Police Department, the Police Departments of DeKalb, Sycamore, Aurora, Batavia, Cortland, Galesburg, Genoa, Geneva, Mendota, St. Charles, Rockford, and the Village of Winnebago, the Conservation Police, the Sheriff’s Offices of DeKalb County, Winnebago County, and Kane County, the Kane County Bomb Squad, the Illinois State Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Reach/Air Angel, Flight for Life, Life Line, the Salvation Army, and the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department of DeKalb, Sycamore, Cortland, Malta, Maple Park, Rochelle, Hampshire, Burlington, Shabbona, Hinckley, Genoa-Kingston, Waterman, Elburn, St. Charles, Ogle-Lee, Kaneville, Sugar Grove, North Aurora, and Somonauk responded to the emergency promptly and assisted capably in the initial crisis and the subsequent investigations;

Whereas the emergency responders and the doctors, nurses, and other health care providers at Kishwaukee Community Hospital, Saint Anthony Medical Center, Good Samaritan Hospital, Rockford Memorial Hospital, and Northwestern Memorial Hospital provided professional and dedicated care to the victims;

Whereas hundreds of volunteer counselors from Illinois and across the Nation have come to Northern Illinois University to assist the campus community;

Whereas the students, faculty, staff, and administration of Northern Illinois University, the people of the city of DeKalb and the State of Illinois, and all Americans have mourned the victims of this tragedy and have offered support to the victims’ friends and families and to the greater Northern Illinois University community;

Whereas Northern Illinois University has established a scholarship fund to honor the memory of the students slain in the February 14 tragedy; and

Whereas the Northern Illinois University community is determined to move “forward, together forward”, in the words of the Huskie fight song, and to persevere through this tragedy with heavy hearts but unbroken spirits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its sincere condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those who were killed in the tragic shooting on February 14, 2008, at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois: Gayle Dubowski, Catalina Garcia, Julianna Gehant, Ryanne Mace, and Daniel Parmenter;

(2) extends its support and prayers to those who were wounded and wishes them a speedy recovery;

(3) commends the emergency responders, law enforcement officers, health care providers, and counselors who performed their duties with professionalism and dedication in response to the tragedy;

(4) reaffirms its commitment to helping ensure that schools, colleges, and universities in the United States are safe and secure environments for learning; and

(5) expresses its solidarity with Northern Illinois University and its students, faculty, staff, and administration as they mourn their losses and as they recover from this tragic incident.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman 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 request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 1007 into the RECORD.

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 myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my deepest sympathies to the victims and families who suffered the horrific shooting tragedy at Northern Illinois University. My thoughts and prayers go out to all those who have suffered through this great loss, especially the families, students, faculty and staff of the university.

Northern Illinois University is one of the largest schools in Illinois, providing higher education to more than 25,000 students. The effects of this tragedy can be felt all across the State, and have echoed throughout the Nation.

Parents send their children to school each day to learn about the world around them and to grow and develop into responsible adults. Parents that send their children off to college expect that they will be safe and will graduate with newfound knowledge and a bright future.

As we mourn with the Northern Illinois University community, this Congress must continue in its work to make all schools safe in order to prevent this kind of tragedy in the future. We must continue to work with our colleges and universities to develop ways to anticipate, identify and prevent these horrific and disturbing acts of violence.

Mr. Speaker, we stand to show our support to the family, students, faculty and staff of Northern Illinois University who continue on despite the tragic events surrounding them. I know that the healing process will take time, but I also hope that some day soon, all members of the Northern Illinois University community will feel the safety and security that all students should have.

Mr. Speaker, especially do I want to extend appreciation to the president of Northern Illinois University, to the faculty and staff, and especially one program, something called the Chance Program, which opens its doors to students from all over the State, provides the sanctuary of the opportunity to get the best possible education, and we hope that they can put this tragedy behind them as we continue to move forward.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1007 to pay final respects and express the condolences of the House of Representatives for those affected by the devastating shooting incident on the campus of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois on February 14, 2008.

On that dark Valentine’s Day, five students lost their lives, and 17 others were injured. Those five who were taken from their families are: 20-year-old Gayle Dubowski of Carol Stream, 20-year-old Catalina Garcia of Cicero, 32-year-old Julianna Gehant of Mendota, 19-year-old Ryanne Mace of Carpentersville, and 20-year-old Daniel Parmenter of Westchester.

The wounds suffered that day have been deeply felt by those families that lost loved ones, but the entire Nation shares in their pain. Messages of support continue to flow in from across the country and around the world.

I would like to take special note of the extraordinary outpouring of kindness and sympathy from the students

and faculty of Virginia Tech. Having endured a similar tragedy just last spring, their words of wisdom and perseverance have given strength to many in the NIU community.

Our Nation's universities and colleges are places where students begin to embrace adulthood, where they begin to relish a newfound freedom, and where they begin to realize their dreams. For many they are places that offer new beginnings and pathways to brighter futures. To have that cut short for these five young men and women by such a senseless act is almost beyond comprehension. So today we come together to comfort one another and pray that the Northern Illinois University community and our Nation can begin to heal in the aftermath of this unspeakable tragedy.

We also come together to support the efforts of America's higher education leaders and administrators to ensure tight security and safe conditions for all students. The recent violence on college campuses has American families concerned. As a Nation we must work to create safe yet accessible facilities and ensure that parents don't have to fear for their children's lives when they send them off to school. If ever there were a place where America's youth should feel safe, it is in institutions of learning.

Mr. Speaker, I also believe that we owe sincere and heartfelt gratitude to NIU's administration, the law enforcement officers, faculty and students for the way they have handled the crisis. The strong, coordinated response by campus security reflects long hours of training and undoubtedly saved the lives of potential victims. And the entire DeKalb community, both on and off campus, has shown unity and courage in the face of extraordinary adversity.

Simply put, no one can ever be truly prepared to handle a tragedy like this, but the response of the Northern Illinois University family has been a credit to them and to the State of Illinois.

So in the spirit of the NIU Husky fight song, let us now move "forward, together forward," and may we all learn from the example of NIU as we tackle future challenges that face our Nation.

I ask my colleagues to keep the students and families of NIU in their thoughts and prayers, and I ask for their support of this resolution.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO).

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my deepest sympathies to the victims and their families who suffered the horrific shooting tragedy at Northern Illinois University.

I would like to offer my deep thanks and gratitude to Chairman GEORGE

MILLER and Ranking Member BUCK MCKEON of the Education and Labor Committee for allowing this resolution to come to the floor for expedited consideration.

Northern Illinois University is one of the largest schools in Illinois. It's over 25,000 students, and it's centered in the corn fields in the beautiful city of DeKalb, Illinois. And it reaches throughout the entire State and indeed around the country and in many cases around the world with the diversity of the foreign students. My colleagues and I represent thousands of Northern Illinois University faculty, staff and graduates. The tragedy has shaken all of us.

Schools are supposed to be a sanctuary of safety, which is why the news that came out of NIU on the afternoon of February 14 was particularly tragic. A lone gunman, a former NIU student, opened fire on an oceanography class, killing five students and wounding 17 more in a matter of seconds. The NIU police were in the auditorium within 30 seconds of the shots being fired. Shortly afterwards he killed himself, but all of the shooting took place prior to the police arriving, even in that short period of time. Many of us remember the shock we felt almost a year ago when 33 members of the Virginia Tech community were lost in a similar senseless act of violence.

As a father of three children in college, I cannot even imagine the sorrow and hurt the families are experiencing. I shared that a bit this past week when I, along with Senators DURBIN and OBAMA and Representatives EMANUEL, ROSKAM and BEAN stood with a crowd of more than 10,000 mourners on the NIU campus to memorialize this tragedy.

But still the sorrow and the shock remain. We cannot bring back these young men and women to the classroom, to the sidewalks of DeKalb, or to the arms of their families. We cannot explain why, but we continue to search for answers. But as we did last week at NIU, we can pause to remember the spirit, energy and life of each of the five students lost in this tragedy.

Gayle Dubowski, was a 25-year-old anthropology major from Carol Stream. She loved the arts, and was committed to her Christian faith. Her friends remembered her as a sweet and genuine person, someone who shined brightly for her Lord on the campus of NIU.

Catalina Garcia, 20 years old of Cicero, Illinois, a first-generation American who hoped to be a teacher. An honor student, an athlete and a dancer in high school, her teachers remember her as a quiet girl but with big ideas. Jamie Garcia, her older brother, says he'll always remember her as the family princess.

Julianna Gehant, age 32 of Mendota, Illinois, had served our Nation for 12 years in the Army and Army Reserves. She enrolled at NIU to major in elementary education, a childhood friend

remembered, because she loved the innocence and creativity of children.

Ryanne Mace, age 19 of Carpentersville, was an only child whose friends remember her rarely being without a smile. She majored in psychology to pursue her dream of helping others. Her roommate remembers her as a vibrant person, full of life, never wanting to miss a beat.

Daniel Parmenter, age 20 of Westchester, Illinois, is remembered as a 6-foot-5 rugby player with a gentle spirit and a bright future. His family has memories of his touching gestures, phone calls and small acts of love and courage. His last act of love was to throw himself in front of his girlfriend and he took the fire and was killed. And she was injured.

It is an honor to have these students remembered in this body and to remember the courage of those who responded that day. The purpose of this resolution is to express the condolences of the House to those affected by this devastating tragedy.

The Bible tells us to mourn with those who mourn, to pray for one another that we may be healed. We pray the healing continue for the families and the victims of Northern Illinois University.

Mrs. BIGGERT. We have no further speakers, so with that, Mr. Speaker, let me just close by saying, let us keep all of these young people who we mourn in our thoughts and prayers; and let us move forward to find ways to keep our children safe in school and everywhere, that they may fulfill their dreams and continue on with their lives.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would close by just simply commending the State of Illinois, led by its Governor, its United States Senators, both Senators DURBIN and OBAMA, Representative MANZULLO, Representative RAHM EMANUEL, the mayor of the City of DeKalb, all of the elected officials from the surrounding communities who joined the 10,000 people who came to a memorial service to express their sorrow, but also to express their sense of hope, to express their sense of frustration, to express their sense of solidarity with all of these students and their families, with the hope and the pledge that we will do everything in our power to try and make sure that this type tragedy does not continue to occur and reoccur on our college campuses across the Nation.

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1007 and join with my colleagues in expressing my condolences to those who have been affected by the shooting incident at Northern Illinois University that killed 6 and injured 18 people last month. I thank my friend and fellow Illinois colleague, Representative DON MANZULLO for introducing this resolution.

I know that words will not bring those six people back or erase the fear in the eyes of those injured by this event. All I can say is that my heart goes out to the families of the

victims, and to the students and faculty who survived—I too mourn with you.

Northern Illinois University is less than 100 miles northeast of my congressional district, so news of the shooting hit close to home for me. At a time like this we find ourselves asking “why?” and jumping to conclusions about campus security and gun control. However, we seldom talk about the stigma of mental health in our Nation. I find it appropriate that on the same day we are considering this resolution, we are also debating the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act, legislation that will make it easier for people to seek and receive mental health treatment.

I believe we need to do more on mental health care in this country in addition to other measures to make our schools, our children and our young adults safe.

Again, my condolences go out to all those affected by the horrific shooting at Northern Illinois University—may you find comfort in those still with you and my you come together as a community once again and move forward to better times.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1007, expressing the condolences of the House to those affected by the devastating shooting incident of February 14, 2008 at Northern Illinois University in Dekalb, Illinois.

The shootings at Northern Illinois University, on Thursday, February 14, reminded us once again that the wrath of violence can easily destroy the lives of many students seeking education. On that day, a gunman took the lives of 5 students and wounded 17 more. My deepest sympathies and thoughts are with the victims, their families, and the community of students, teachers, and staff.

This reaffirms the steps we must take as public officials to ensure that schools, colleges, and universities in the United States are a safe and secure environment for learning. We must take a hard look at gun regulation. We must regulate the process by which civilians are able to obtain firearms for the sake of protecting those who may be victims of senseless crimes. Americans must stop apologizing and actually do something about the problem. We must stop denying that problems like this will never happen in our communities. A system of educating students and parents about gun safety should be paralleled with education systems by providing students with counselors, or spiritual advisors.

I express my deepest condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those who were killed in the tragic shooting: Gayle Dubpowski, Catalina Garcia, Julianna Gehant, RYANNE MACE, and Daniel Parameter. As citizens of the United States, we offer support to the victims' families with prayer and hope for a speedy recovery to those who were wounded. I commend the emergency responders, law enforcement officers, health care providers, and counselors who performed their duties with professionalism and dedication in response to the tragedy.

The Northern Illinois University Community must be determined to move ‘forward, together forward’, in the words of the Huskie fight song, and persevere through this tragedy. Indeed they must tread with heavy hearts but unbroken spirits.

I cannot begin to understand how the actions of something so terrible could occur in

one of our institutions of higher learning. Our Nation continues to grapple with this horrific event. We can never completely understand why these things happen. I realize that no words can heal the wounds of February 14, 2008 for the NIU family, but I extend my arms as a Member of the United States Congress in offering all of my prayers, support, and hugs for your family during this difficult 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 resolution, H. Res. 1007.

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.

□ 1345

NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1013) expressing the sense of Congress that providing breakfast in schools through the National School Breakfast Program has a positive impact on classroom performance.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1013

Whereas breakfast program participants under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 include public, private, elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as rural, suburban, and urban schools;

Whereas almost 17,000 schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program do not participate in the National School Breakfast Program;

Whereas in fiscal year 2006, 7,700,000 students in the United States consumed free or reduced-price school breakfasts provided under the National School Breakfast Program established by section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966;

Whereas less than half of the low-income students who participate in the National School Lunch Program also participate in the school breakfast program;

Whereas implementing or improving classroom breakfast programs have been shown to increase the participation of eligible students in breakfast consumption dramatically, doubling, and in some cases tripling, numbers, as evidenced by research in Minnesota, New York, and Wisconsin;

Whereas making breakfast widely available through different venues or a combination thereof, such as in the classroom, obtained as students exit their school bus, or outside the classroom, has been shown to lessen the stigma of receiving free or reduced-price breakfast, which often prevents eligible students from obtaining traditional breakfast in the cafeteria;

Whereas providing free universal breakfast, especially in the classroom, has been shown to significantly increase school breakfast participation rates and increase absences and tardiness;

Whereas studies have shown that access to nutritious programs such as the National School Lunch Program and National School Breakfast Program helps to create a strong learning environment for children and helps to improve children's concentration in the classroom;

Whereas providing breakfast in the classroom has been shown in several instances to improve attentiveness and academic performance, while reducing tardiness and disciplinary referrals;

Whereas students who eat a complete breakfast have been shown to make fewer mistakes and work faster in math exercises than those who eat a partial breakfast;

Whereas studies suggest that eating breakfast closer to classroom and test-taking time improves student performance on standardized tests relative to students who skip breakfast or have breakfast at home;

Whereas studies show that students who skip breakfast are more likely to have difficulty distinguishing among similar images, show increased errors, and have slower memory recall;

Whereas children who live in families that experience hunger have been shown to be more likely to have lower math scores, face an increased likelihood of repeating a grade, and receive more special education services;

Whereas studies suggest that children who eat breakfast have more adequate nutrition and intake of nutrients, such as calcium, fiber, protein, and vitamins A, E, D, and B-6; and

Whereas children who fail to eat breakfast, whether in school or at home, are more likely to be overweight than children who eat a daily healthy breakfast: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the importance of the National School Breakfast Program and its overall positive effect on the lives of low-income children and families, as well as its effect on helping to improve a child's overall classroom performance;

(2) expresses support for States that have successfully implemented school breakfast programs in order to improve the test scores and grades of its participating students; and

(3) encourages states to strengthen their school breakfast programs by improving access for students, to promote improvements in the nutritional quality of breakfasts served, and to inform students and parents of healthy nutritional and lifestyle choices.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman 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 for 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 1013 into the RECORD.

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 gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank so much the gentleman from Illinois for yielding.

I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 1013, which emphasizes