

deals with labor issues, and he served as a senior Member of the Education and the Workforce Committee. Congressman Clay was a champion of education and played a key role in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, including efforts to reduce early grade class sizes by hiring 100,000 teachers nationwide. He has also leading the way for our Nation's schools to be first in getting the resources necessary for school construction, renovation and modernization. His work in education has also included winning concessions from the Republicans to increase the amount of Pell Grant funding and the reduction of student loan interest rates.

From 1991 until 1995, Congressman Clay chaired the House Committee on the Post Office and Civil Service. Upon his retirement in 2000, he was succeeded by his son, my colleague, Congressman WILLIAM LACY CLAY.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will honor a true champion of civil rights in a very fitting way. It is fitting that a former Chairman of the House Committee on the Post Office and Civil Service be honored with a post office in the very town where his political career began.

I am very proud to support this legislation, and I ask my colleagues to join me in voting honoring William "Bill" Clay and voting for H.R. 5395.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11001 Dunklin Drive in St. Louis, Missouri as the William "Bill" Clay Post Office Building. Representing the people of St. Louis in this chamber for 32 years, Bill Clay was the consummate advocate for Civil Rights, labor, and his community.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri in April of 1931, Clay grew up in the city and graduated from St. Louis University in 1953 with a bachelors degree in Political Science. After 2 years with the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955, Clay returned home to begin his career serving the people of St. Louis. After spending some time as a real estate broker, Clay was elected to the Board of Aldermen in 1959. He held this position, representing the 26th Ward until 1964.

When Bill Clay, Sr. was elected to Congress in 1968, he was the first African American member elected from Missouri and one of only two African American representatives from states west of the Mississippi River. Throughout his 16 terms in Congress, he gained a reputation for his streetwise urban politics. A staunch advocate for civil rights and social justice, he also served as one of the founders of the Congressional Black Caucus. From 1991 to 1995 he chaired the House Committee on the Post Office and Civil Service and served as the Ranking Member on the Education and the Workforce Committee until he retired. In all that he did while he was serving the people of Missouri in Congress, he still found time to author several books.

Bill Clay, Sr. retired from Congress in 2000 but his legacy lives on through his successor whom I am proud to serve with in this chamber. His successor also happens to be his son, the gentleman from Missouri, WILLIAM LACY CLAY, Jr.

I urge my colleagues to support me in this resolution honoring a man who spent over 3 decades serving his community, state, and country.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize my former colleague, fellow Missourian, and good friend Bill Clay. Today, I join with my colleagues in support of H.R. 5395, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11001 Dunklin Drive in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "William 'Bill' Clay Post Office

Bill was born in St. Louis, Missouri, the very town in which he carried out his storied political career. In 1959, he was elected as a member of the St. Louis Board of Alderman, where he served until 1964. Between 1964 and 1967, Bill worked as a real estate broker and later as a labor coordinator. He also worked for the union of St. Louis city employees and then with a Steamfitters Union.

In 1968, Mr. Clay was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and he proudly served the residents of Missouri's First Congressional District for 32 years. Throughout his years in office, Bill became known as a champion of social justice and a true pioneer for civil rights. He was a co-founder of the Congressional Black Caucus and Chairman of the House Committee on the Post Office and Civil Service. He was always a truly delightful colleague and I am proud to have served with him as a fellow Missouri Congressman. I must also say, Mr. Speaker, that I am also so very honored to serve with Bill's son, LACY, who was elected to represent the First District upon Bill's retirement.

Naming a St. Louis post office after Bill Clay is an outstanding way to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant and a true pioneer in American politics. I urge the House to honor Bill for his years of public service and his commitment to his community by supporting H.R. 5395.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the naming of the U.S. Post Office at 11001 Dunklin Drive in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "William 'Bill' Clay" Post Office Building.

William "Bill" Clay served his country and his community at an important juncture in history, as he was one of the cofounders of the Congressional Black Caucus, an institution in this body that has grown in size and stature to 43 members, of which I am proud to be a part.

From his work in his native St. Louis as a real estate broker, labor coordinator and union affiliate, Bill Clay brought a reservoir of knowledge and experience to his service in this body for 33 years. He was well respected and he served as a mentor to me and other members as we learned our way around the House of Representatives.

William "Bill" Clay chaired the House Committee on the Post Office and Civil Service from 1991 until 1995. It is even more fitting that a U.S. Post Office in his beloved city bear his name and the memory of his work on behalf of so many.

Mr. MARCHANT. 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 Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5395.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1038) recognizing the fifth anniversary of the Department of Homeland Security and honoring the Department's employees for their extraordinary efforts and contributions to protect and secure our Nation.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1038

Whereas, in the wake of the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Department of Homeland Security was created in an effort to consolidate our Nation's efforts to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and mitigate against threats to the homeland, including acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies;

Whereas the Department of Homeland Security marked its fifth year of full-scale operations on March 1, 2008;

Whereas the Department has strived to integrate 22 disparate agencies and offices, while at the same time has been successful in helping prevent another terrorist attack over this period;

Whereas the United States must continue to remain vigilant against all such threats;

Whereas the employees of the Department of Homeland Security have spent the past 5 years enhancing our Nation's domestic preparedness and collective response to terrorism and standing ready to assist State, local, and tribal governments as they prepare for and prevent acts of terrorism and respond to natural disasters and other emergencies;

Whereas the Department's employees work diligently to deter, detect, and prevent acts of terrorism and stand willing, ready, and able to respond in the event of a terrorist incident or other major emergency;

Whereas the Department's employees have cooperated closely with the private sector to enhance emergency preparedness across the Nation;

Whereas the American people rely on the Department's employees to protect our Nation's borders, airports, seaports, rail lines, and other transit systems;

Whereas the continuing efforts of the Department's employees will be crucial to the security of our Nation in the years to come;

Whereas the Department's employees have sacrificed, and will continue to sacrifice, time with their families and working long hours to fulfill the Department's vital mission;

Whereas because the Nation depends on the Department's employees to keep the American people safe from harm, they deserve the best in training, testing, and equipment;

Whereas the Department's employees often do not receive the recognition they deserve; and

Whereas the Nation is indebted to the Department's employees for their sacrifices, efforts, and contributions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the fifth anniversary of the Department of Homeland Security; and

(2) honors the Department's dedicated public servants for their extraordinary service to this Nation in helping preserve the safety and security of the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to recognize the fifth anniversary of the Department of Homeland Security. This is an opportunity for us to praise the tireless employees who, day in and day out, are working hard to prevent another terrorist attack on our soil, in our skies, and on our waters, and to also ensure that we're prepared should a catastrophe strike again.

Congress is often critical of DHS, and we have had some harsh hearings in the Homeland Security Committee. But our criticism of the management at DHS is only because we hope to ensure the department's employees have the resources they need to do their jobs and to keep America safe. The department is still in its formative years and still experiencing expected growing pains.

When DHS was established, it was the largest reorganization of the Federal Government since the creation of the Department of Defense 60 years ago, with 180,000 employees and 22 agencies that merged to form one new department. That number has grown by nearly 30,000 since then.

Let's take a moment to honor DHS in its 5-year anniversary but also to recognize these employees for their dedicated service.

To the Customs and Border Patrol officers and the Border Patrol agents protecting our borders, at our ports of entry and in between; and to our Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents ensuring that criminal aliens are accounted for and removed; and to our Transportation Security officers, protecting millions of passengers daily and quickly adapting to threats to prevent future hijackings or worse; and to our Federal Air Marshals, quietly protecting our skies; and to our Secret Service, called upon earlier than ever to protect presidential candidates; and to the men and women of the Coast Guard, protecting 360 ports and over 90,000 miles of coastline, ready to respond at a moment's notice; and to the first responders of FEMA, who have again proven themselves in their response to the California wildfires and the recent Midwest tornadoes.

Thank you. We know all too well the long hours you've committed to our country and the time away from your homes and families. We sincerely appreciate all of your work and your service.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to fully support this resolution, which speaks to this Congress, appropriately recognizing and honoring the brave Americans, the great patriots, who work to protect us all through their service at the Department of Homeland Security.

And I believe that the first and foremost responsibility of the Federal Government is to provide for the national defense. That is actually in the preamble of our Constitution. Additionally, for all of us who have the honor to serve in this House, protecting our homeland and securing our borders against those who would harm us is something that we all take an oath to do.

Before those horrific attacks on our Nation on 9/11, we thought about national defense more in terms of having a strong military, the best trained, the best resourced, facing down enemies overseas in conflicts where we had a national interest in spots around the world. We didn't usually think in terms of actually being attacked or continuing to be threatened with attacks on American soil here in our homeland.

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9/11 changed all of our lives, as on that day cowardly terrorists murdered nearly 3,000 of our fellow Americans, innocent people who were just going about their daily lives. And the terrorists used the tools of our own freedoms against us. And why? Because they hate us, and they especially hate our freedoms.

They sought to weaken us, to destroy us, and instead they united us. They awoke us, and instead, made us begin to take the necessary steps to protect ourselves from future attacks.

We knew we had to change the way we practiced security measures at our airports, on our railways, on our roadways, at our ports, and at our border crossings. We knew we had to secure our infrastructure, that we had to better prepare our first responders and local emergency management agencies, that we had to share intelligence, that we had to tear down silo mentalities and do a much better job of sharing intelligence and resources.

And we also knew we had to create an agency here at the Federal level and task them with implementing this seemingly impossible job. And so the Department of Homeland Security was created 5 years ago, and what a remarkable success story it has been.

The brave men and women of the 22 agencies, more than 213,000 individuals that make up the department, deserve our respect, and they deserve our gratitude. We have not had another successful attack on our shores since that day, in no small part due to the vigilance and the hard work of the Department of Homeland Security and their efforts

to provide for our common defense against America's enemies, against the enemies of freedom, those who are truly cowards, those who hide in the shadows and who prey on the innocent.

Mr. Speaker, as Congress recognizes and pays tribute to the Department of Homeland Security for the dedication and the commitment they have made to our homeland security during the past 5 years that they have been in existence, we also look forward to standing shoulder to shoulder with them as we look towards the future.

We understand that we need to do more to clearly define the lines of congressional committee jurisdiction, to streamline, to make more effective and cost efficient many of the department's missions. We recognize that the largest room is always the room for improvement, and that the department is looking to Congress to continue to assist them and not to hobble them.

Mr. Speaker, I am a new member of the Committee on Homeland Security, and I am proud to represent my district in Michigan, a border State with many unique dynamics, such as the first and second busiest international border crossings on the northern tier and the busiest rail entry in the country, the magnificent Great Lakes, fully one-fifth of the freshwater supply of the entire planet, a long liquid border that we share with our wonderful neighbors, the Canadians.

These are issues and items that require the attention of the Department of Homeland Security, and yet, Mr. Speaker, every Member, every Member of this House, could tell us of particular dynamics in their district, or their State, or their region of the country that also require the attention of the department.

Identifying and dealing with the threats to our homeland are done each and every day, 24/7, by the remarkable men and women of the Department of Homeland Security. And it is certainly appropriate that we honor those who serve us so well, that we thank them for their vigilance, we salute them for their dedication, we appreciate their commitment to democracy and liberty and freedom.

I urge my colleagues to pass the resolution before us and formally thank the great Americans who make up the Department of Homeland Security for keeping our Nation safe.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, at this time, it is my great honor to recognize for as much time as he may consume the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

I thank Chairman CARNEY for helping to bring this matter to the House floor today, and I rise in strong support of H.

Res. 1038 because we do owe a tremendous debt of gratitude and thanks to all of the employees of the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Speaker, you and I come from adjoining districts in New York. Probably between our districts we lost well over 200 people on September 11. And I think any of us on September 12 and September 13 anticipated there would have to be another successful attack on our country in the not-too-distant future. Well, the fact is, we have now gone 6½ years without an attack.

During 5 of those years, the Department of Homeland Security has been up and operational. And it was really a tribute to the men and women who comprise the formerly separate 22 agencies who came together to be combined into this one department for what they have been able to do and what they have been able to achieve. It is no accident, it is not luck we haven't been attacked. It is for a number of reasons, but among the very prime reasons is the tremendous effort by all these men and women. And doing that was not easy because they each came from different cultures and traditions. They had different types of training and a different type of emphasis. They had a tough enough job before September 11. But now added to that was the new dimension of homeland security. And they had to do what they were doing at a different level, and they combined their efforts with employees from other agencies who were trained differently, who had a different way of looking at things, and they had to learn to speak and think as one. And they have done it. They have done a terrific job.

I believe it was last year we held hearings on how far the department has come. And yes, it is easy to be a critic. It is easy to stand back and say this should be done better and that should be done better. But the consensus of the testimony we had from experts was that the Department of Homeland Security is further along in its progress than the Defense Department was after a comparable period of time after it was formed over 60 years ago. So it is important to keep that in mind, and also to keep in mind that their work is a 24/7 job, that at any given time, there are active threats against the United States or active plots against the United States, and there is no simple easy way to stop it. And there are many ways. We have to fight it overseas. We have to fight it at the national level making sure that all intelligence is coordinated. But no one is more central to that than the Department of Homeland Security because they have to coordinate the national and international intelligence and then also make sure it gets down to the local levels, to make sure that the local police, the State police and the local law enforcements throughout the country are apprised of what could be happening, what might be happening, and also to absorb information

that is sent back up from the local governments to the Department of Homeland Security.

So I commend them. I think it is too easy to take shots. And we see it in Presidential debates, we see people who take random shots at the people in this department, and it is so unfair because they are literally on the firing lines for us. They are on the front lines for us. In many ways, they are doing it anonymously because obviously their successes cannot be recorded. They are not publicized. How do you prove an attack didn't happen that was actually going to happen and didn't? And those that we do know about often can't be spoken about. But they are there. They are doing it. And in addition to that, they have the added responsibility from Congress because of the events of September 11 and having to do much more as far as border security and illegal immigration is concerned. So there is just a myriad of responsibilities that have been thrust upon them in addition to all they have been doing before, and they are doing it first class.

It is important for us in the Congress to live up to that same level, that same standard, that these employees are setting. It's important for us to get our act coordinated in the Congress, to make sure that jurisdiction is consolidated as much as possible so that we can speak with one voice, not to take partisan advantage, not to be allowing jurisdictional disputes between and among committees to impede the job that we should be doing. We can take a lesson from those employees out there who have put aside their prerogatives, put aside their own petty interests for the common good.

So I commend all the employees of the Department of Homeland Security on the fifth anniversary. Thanks for keeping us safe. Thanks for doing what you are doing. And I believe we can speak for all Members of this House that we will continue to do what we have to do to make sure that you get the tools to do your job and also get the support that you so richly deserve from all of us, and most important, from your fellow Americans whom you have done so much to protect.

I urge the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers.

If the gentlewoman from Michigan has no more, and she is ready to close, I will close after she does.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Yes, I have no further speakers at this time, Mr. Speaker. And so I would certainly urge my colleagues to pass the resolution before us and honor the brave men and women of the Department of Homeland Security, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

I would like to talk about what the department does for a few moments. It is imperative that we honor and recognize the fact that the Department of

Homeland Security and all its components provides the awareness for our Nation to prevent threats and identify our vulnerabilities. It prevents threats through detection and deterrence, and it mitigates those accidents and those attacks that might happen. It protects people and/or critical infrastructure and, of course, the economy. It responds to terrorism. It responds to natural disasters and certainly any other emergencies. It provides us the opportunity and the ability to recover from terrorism and from natural disasters. And it serves the public by facilitating lawful trade, lawful travel and lawful immigration.

It is committed to organizational excellence, and through that organizational excellence, we are all protected.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker I rise today to support H. Res. 1038, "Recognizing the 5th Anniversary of the Department of Homeland Security and honoring the Department's Employees for their Extraordinary Efforts to Protect and Secure our Nation."

On September 11, 2001 this nation suffered a terrorist attack that surpassed anything we had dealt with before. After witnessing those events, I decided that the protection of our homeland would be at the forefront of my legislative agenda. I knew that all of our collective efforts as Americans would all be in vain if we did not achieve our most important priority: the security of our Nation.

After the events of September 11th, the Department of Homeland Security was created in an effort to consolidate our Nation's efforts to prevent, respond to, and mitigate threats to the homeland, including acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies.

Since its first full scale year in 2003, the Department of Homeland Security has integrated 22 disparate agencies and offices. Due to the Homeland Security's employees' diligence, the department has done a magnificent job of deterring, detecting, and preventing acts of terrorism from occurring on U.S. soil.

Over 331 pieces of legislation related to Homeland Security have been introduced since the Department's inception. From the health-related issues surrounding clean up of Ground Zero to Customs and Border Protection, the Department covers several facets affecting our national security.

Working for the Department of Homeland Security is more than a job. It would be like saying that we as Members of Congress simply have a job. Homeland Security is a belief in the greatness of this nation and the desire to protect it no matter where the enemy comes from, no matter how large or small the attack.

I thank the employees for the work they do and their belief in the need for protecting our Nation's borders, airports, seaports, rail lines, transit systems, and most importantly our way of life.

That is why I have introduced legislation such as H.R. 750 [110th] the Save America Comprehensive Immigration Act of 2007, which seeks to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to provide increased protections and eligibility for family-sponsored immigrants. It would authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to deny a family-based immigration petition by a U.S. petitioner for an alien spouse or child if: (1) the petitioner is on

the national sex offender registry for a conviction that resulted in more than one year's imprisonment; (2) the petitioner has failed to rebut such information within 90 days; and (3) granting the petition would put a spouse or child beneficiary in danger of sexual abuse. Among other things it would direct the Secretary to establish the Task Force to Rescue Immigrant Victims of American Sex Offenders.

I also introduced H.R. 1530, the Chemical Facility Security Improvement Act of 2007 to prohibit federal funds from being used by the Secretary of Homeland Security to approve a site security plan for a chemical facility unless the facility meets or exceeds security standards and requirements to protect it against terrorist acts established by the State or local government for the area where it is located.

Because while I support and commend the Department of Homeland Security, I still believe that the Department's mission and goals are still malleable. We need to continue to improve the Department's comprehensive national strategies to ensure that the more than 87,000 different governmental jurisdictions at the Federal, State, and local level are protecting our nation's borders, transit systems, people, and ideals.

This work could not be done however, without the more than 208,000 employees of the Department working to ensure disaster preparedness at all levels of government while sacrificing their invaluable time with their family and working long hours to stand willing, able, and ready to respond if catastrophe strikes.

The Department of Homeland Security is critical in ensuring our great nation's preparation for future terrorist threats and attacks. Its employees step beyond the ordinary call of duty and tirelessly help to prepare our Nation to counter acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and other emergencies.

I urge my colleagues to support the achievements of the Department of Homeland Security, and support this resolution honoring the 5th anniversary of the Department of Homeland Security and its extraordinary employees.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to be here today to honor the employees of the Department of Homeland Security. As we mark the Department's fifth anniversary, we must keep in mind that it is the people of the Department who make the sacrifices to keep us all safe.

Five years ago, this new Department was created and charged with the crucial mission of protecting and securing our homeland. This was not an easy task in the wake of the September 11th attacks. Hurricane Katrina demonstrated that this was a broader mission than the Department's leadership initially thought. However, despite the challenges before them, the employees of the Department have remained focused on ensuring the security of all Americans.

We talk about the activities of TSA or FEMA or CBP. What sometimes gets lost in the discussion are the individuals behind the acronyms. The people of DHS deserve our praise and our gratitude. They include the Customs and Border Protection Officers who man our ports-of-entry; the Federal Air Marshals who, everyday, sit through the same flight delays that so frustrate the American public to do their part to keep the flying public secure; FEMA teams who trek selflessly into disaster

zones to help those in need; and support personnel such as contracting officers, administrative assistants, technical support teams without whom the folks on the front lines could not do their jobs.

I could go on, but my time is limited and I think my point is clear. All the men and women of the Department deserve to be recognized for 5 years of hard work. They work nights, weekends, and holidays. They put their life on the line to secure our country from all manner of threats. Today, we are here to extend a hard-earned and much deserved "Thank You."

As Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, it is an honor for me to stand here today in support of this resolution. I have, at times, been critical of the Department's management. But I want to be very clear: my criticism of the Department's management should in no way be construed as a lack of appreciation for the individuals who are making daily sacrifices to secure our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring these "everyday heroes."

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1038, which recognizes and honors the employees of the Department of Homeland Security for their contributions in protecting our Nation from terrorist attacks.

We commend today the more than 200,000 employees of the Department that have dedicated themselves to the ongoing effort to secure our Nation.

In January 2003, the Department of Homeland Security officially was established, and in March 2003, 22 Federal agencies were brought together and the Department became operational. The Department has come a long way these five years.

With great interest, our Subcommittee on Management, Investigations, and Oversight has watched and encouraged the Department's progress in managing its components, organizing its people, and executing the critical mission of protecting the Nation.

I am especially pleased with the 21 percent staffing increase that Customs and Border Protection achieved in just one year. I have every confidence these agents are working tirelessly to help improve the security of our borders every single day.

Similarly, the hard-working people at the Transportation Security Administration have implemented a wide range of improvements at our Nation's airports. T-S-A is now training its own employees to be explosives detection canine handlers, which will allow for a considerable surge in detection in the event of a threat to any transportation system.

I am also proud that two key DHS facilities are located in my hometown of Anniston, Alabama. The Center for Domestic Preparedness provides live chemical agent training to first responders, and the Noble Training Center provides training for hospital and healthcare professionals to prepare for and respond to disasters.

The people who serve at the CDP and Noble Training Center provide an invaluable service to our Nation and deserve our thanks.

Yet as we look back over five years of growth and accomplishment, we must also look forward to next year's transition and beyond.

Consolidation of congressional oversight authority is still sorely needed, and remains the

sole recommendation of the 9/11 Commission yet to be enacted. The lack of consolidated Congressional oversight jurisdiction over the Department has a direct negative impact on the Department's ability to fulfill its mission of securing the homeland. Congress must address this issue immediately.

In addition, the Congress needs to establish an annual DHS authorization bill to provide the steady-handed guidance that 86 different committees and subcommittees cannot. This Committee, followed by the House and our colleagues in the Senate, must produce an authorization bill in advance of any appropriations bill this year.

And finally, we must allow the Department's employees to work unimpeded by further organizational shuffling.

These and many more challenges lie in front of us. It is our job to ensure that the Department is ready for the future, especially as it prepares to transition to a new administration.

We therefore gladly extend our thanks to the many dedicated individuals that make up the backbone of our Nation's current and future security.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this resolution.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in overwhelming support of H. Res. 1038, recognizing the fifth anniversary of the Department of Homeland Security and honoring the Department's employees for their extraordinary efforts and contributions to protect and secure our country.

As a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I am proud to work side-by-side with DHS on keeping our Nation secure. We have come a long way and it is hard to believe that so much has been accomplished in 5 years. For certain, consolidating 22 different agencies has been extremely challenging as it is the first act of its kind. The Department now employs more than 200,000 workers in its efforts to keep the Nation secure. Although there are many issues to still be resolved, and there always will be, I commend Secretary Chertoff and the DHS employees for their success in preventing another terrorist attack, thus far, and intercepting terrorists plots.

My colleagues and I remain committed to working on ensuring that the agency has the support and resources it needs to continue to get the job done. One of our top priorities and concerns has always been staff morale. We believe that the employees are the backbone of the agency and that the agency is a reflection of its employees' approach and outlook toward their job. Their continuing efforts are crucial to the security of our Nation in the years to come.

I would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Secretary Chertoff and the employees of DHS, especially those in the U.S. Virgin Islands, for their outstanding service.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks of this resolution and include any extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1038.

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. CARNEY. 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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PLUMBING INDUSTRY WEEK

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the resolution (H. Res. 1082) recognizing the plumbing industry and supporting the goals and ideals of "National Plumbing Industry Week".

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1082

Whereas on June 27, 1883, Victorian plumbers came together at the Old Masonic Temple in New York City, New York, for the first-ever convention of master plumbers;

Whereas the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association (PHCC) is the oldest trade association in the construction industry;

Whereas for over 125 years, our Nation has been paving the way for today's plumbing, heating, and cooling contractor's status as important, and independent small business people;

Whereas the majority of plumbing contractors are small business owners, who help create critical jobs in this country;

Whereas the men and women who design, manufacture, install, and maintain water efficient plumbing systems play a crucial role in our economy;

Whereas this industry has one of the best and most extensive training programs in the country by providing young men and women with thousands of dollars in scholarships every year;

Whereas professional certified plumbers save our Nation millions of dollars each year through the design and installation of more efficient equipment that provides essential comfort while reducing water consumption; and

Whereas the House of Representatives supports the industry in its celebration of "National Plumbing Industry Week", April 27 through May 3, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that small business plumbing contractors have benefitted from the reduced regulatory burden provided as a result of passage of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-354) and the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-121);

(2) recognizes that the loan guarantee program under Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) administered by

the Administrator of the Small Business Administration has provided access to capital for small business plumbing contractors;

(3) recognizes that approximately 80 percent of plumbing contractors around the country are small, family owned and run companies;

(4) recognizes these small firms account for a large percentage of our Nation's GDP, through sales, service, and repair;

(5) recognizes how small businesses in the plumbing industry are the leader in developing, and utilizing new innovative technologies which help improve and maintain the infrastructure our Nation depends on; and

(6) supports the goals and ideals of "National Plumbing Industry Week".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the House Small Business Committee, I rise to support this resolution recognizing the contributions of the U.S. plumbing industry during National Plumbing Industry Week. I am pleased to be joined by my ranking member, Representative STEVE CHABOT, in offering this legislation.

I stand before you today to honor a sector of the U.S. small businesses that provide vital contributions to the lives of millions of Americans. The plumbing industry is one of the oldest trades in the country. It employs thousands and serves every American. In fact, over 90 percent of the firms in this sector are led by entrepreneurs. And their companies create jobs in every city and town across the Nation.

In the coming weeks, one of the leading trade associations representing these plumbers will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. The Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors National Association was founded in my home city of New York in 1883.

This resolution highlights the contributions of many of its members, as well as those of other American plumbing professionals. During National Plumbing Industry Week, many of them will visit Capitol Hill, as they have done in previous years, to advocate issues of critical importance to their trade.

The industry will also use the observance to promote greater energy efficiency, water conservation and worker training. On this last point, it is worth noting that because the plumbing in-

dustry has placed such emphasis on professional skills, it has one of the best and most extensive training programs in this country. That program has been vital in meeting the demands of the new green economy. Consumers in every community are benefiting from its careful design and unparalleled success. To accommodate the growing needs of our greener economy, the plumbing trade also has a newly developed apprentice and education program. It will create new opportunities and further showcase the positive impacts of green jobs.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that this resolution will focus the country's attention on the important role that plumbing contractors play in our daily lives. Their industry is vital to our economy for its work and for the job opportunities it provides thousands of our fellow Americans.

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Mr. Speaker, without this industry, it would be difficult to be assured that the water our family uses to drink and bathe in is safe and nontoxic. We are proud this House will take a moment to thank such an important part of our Nation's infrastructure and economic base, our plumbers.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Mr. CHABOT in passing this resolution, and I urge support of this legislation.

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from New York, the distinguished chairwoman of the Small Business Committee, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, for bringing this bipartisan measure to the floor recognizing the plumbing industry and supporting the goals and ideals of National Plumbing Industry Week.

Like many of our small businesses today, plumbing contractors face difficult times and many difficult issues; a burdensome regulatory system, confiscatory taxation policy at virtually every level of government, rising energy prices, and often the unavailability of affordable health care for their employees and families. Congress can and must help these entrepreneurs, and we will continue to work with the chairwoman and my colleagues on the Small Business Committee to address these obstacles to the success of our Nation's small business plumbing contractors.

As Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ has pointed out, the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors National Association is the oldest trade association in the American construction industry. I congratulate the association for its contributions over the years and encourage the industry to continue its good work, especially in training and mentoring our future industry leaders in that field.

I have no doubt that our friends and neighbors in the plumbing industry