

Father, we acknowledge that all blessings come from You. I ask that You give the men and women who serve this great Nation from these desks wisdom, courage, and discernment to make decisions that are honoring to You and right for this country.

Presently, there are soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines deployed around the world in harm's way. Father, I pray that You will keep them safe, give them purpose, guard their hearts from loneliness and despair, and bring them home soon. For their families, I pray that You will comfort them and meet all of their needs. For those who have given their lives in defense of freedom, words cannot express our sorrow and our gratitude. May our actions honor their sacrifice, and may Your peace comfort their families.

Father, for this great Nation, I pray that it will continue, under Your blessing, to stand as a beacon for goodness and a bastion of freedom. May we understand the message of Your scripture: "To whom much has been given, much will be expected."

In Your precious name I pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SOLIS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

GREEN JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, it's no surprise that our Nation's economy is struggling. The cities in the 32nd Congressional District that I represent have seen unemployment rates soar to 7.2 percent. Gasoline prices continue to go up above \$3.

In Los Angeles, a family loses a home to foreclosure every hour.

However, the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors seem to be booming.

In 2006, the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors generated 8.5 million jobs, nearly \$1 trillion in revenue for the United States. These jobs are good-paying jobs, and they will not be outsourced.

The Green Collar Job Act that was signed into law recently will help train

3 million new workers. Through the program, workers included will be those in underserved communities like mine.

In this time of economic turmoil, we need to invest in America and in our workforce. Let's make sure that Congress appropriates the accorded amount of money so that we can create this stream of jobs that will stay here on our shores.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT BORIS TADIC

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to President Boris Tadic and the people of Serbia on his re-election as President of the Republic of Serbia.

President Boris Tadic has been a strong and vibrant leader for the people of Serbia. He has led his people in their bid to become a member of the European Union because he understands that inclusion in the EU would be a strong step toward growing the Serbian economy and advancing the cause of peace and freedom in the region. The Serbian people have an extraordinary history and culture, and I am hopeful the principles of freedom and democracy embodied by the leadership of President Tadic will continue to thrive.

As a proud member of the Serbian Caucus, I look forward to working with my colleagues and our diplomatic partners in Serbia to forge a growing partnership between our two nations. Congratulations to President Tadic and the people of Serbia for building a robust free market democracy which is crucial for our Balkan nations.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

My deepest sympathies to Annette Lantos, the Lantos family, staff and constituents on the death of Chairman TOM LANTOS. He lived to see Hungary, his birthplace, become a thriving free market democracy.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YARMUTH). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SENIOR BORDER PATROL AGENT LUIS A. AGUILAR

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules

and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 954) honoring the life of senior Border Patrol agent Luis A. Aguilar, who lost his life in the line of duty near Yuma, Arizona, on January 19, 2008, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 954

Whereas Luis Aguilar was born in El Paso, Texas, on November 26, 1976, to Luis Aguilar and Cecilia G. Silva;

Whereas Luis Aguilar resided in Somerton, Arizona, and is survived by his mother and father, his wife, Erica Aguilar, his two children, Luis and Arianna, his brother, senior Border Patrol agent Marco Antonio Aguilar, and his sister, Angie Aguilar;

Whereas Luis Aguilar joined the United States Border Patrol on July 21, 2002;

Whereas on January 19, 2008, after over 5 years of dedicated service in the United States Border Patrol, Luis Aguilar selflessly paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States;

Whereas Border Patrol agents carry out the vital role of protecting our Nation's borders and ensuring the safety of the United States;

Whereas Border Patrol agents work devotedly and selflessly on behalf of the people of the United States, without regard for the peril or danger to themselves; and

Whereas the United States will forever be grateful for the service of Luis Aguilar and mourn his loss: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as United States Border Patrol agents;

(2) honors Luis Aguilar for his service as a Border Patrol agent and for his sacrifice to the United States; and

(3) extends its deepest condolences to the family of Luis Aguilar.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 954, honoring senior Border Patrol agent Luis A. Aguilar, who lost his life in the line of duty near Yuma, Arizona, on January 19, 2008.

I would also like to thank Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, for introducing this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, on January 19, 2008, Agent Aguilar was working with fellow

Border Patrol agents to secure a suspected narcotics smuggler in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreational Area when he was struck and killed by the suspected smuggler's vehicle as it fled into Mexico.

A native of El Paso, Texas, Agent Aguilar had been assigned to the Yuma Border Patrol station since joining the Border Patrol in July 2002. He was just 32 years old at the time of his death.

Agent Aguilar is survived by his wife, Erica; his children, Luis and Arianna; his father, Luis Aguilar, Sr.; his sister, Angie; and his Border Patrol brother, senior Border Patrol agent, Marco Antonio Aguilar.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, Agent Aguilar's mother, Cecilia Silva, recently passed away after her son's tragic death.

We're here to honor Agent Aguilar, a young man who's made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the sovereign borders of the United States and make America more secure.

The mission of the U.S. Border Patrol is to control the nearly 6,000 miles of land border between ports of entry with Mexico and Canada, and the coastal waters around Florida and Puerto Rico.

The death of Agent Aguilar serves as a stark reminder of the risks our front-line agents and officers face each day as they serve as the guardians of our Nation's land borders.

As chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, I've been to the southern border on a number of occasions. I've witnessed firsthand the dedication of the men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol, often under difficult and dangerous conditions. They work long hours, often late into the night, in extreme heat and cold.

Like Agent Aguilar, they are our Nation's last line of defense against would-be terrorists, drug traffickers and others who would seek to enter this Nation illegally. Agent Aguilar's contribution to our Nation's security deserves this recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring senior Border Patrol Agent Luis Aguilar in his service to our Nation, and offer my deepest condolences to the family.

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

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is with great sorrow and profound gratitude that I rise to support this resolution to honor the life and service of senior Border Patrol guard Luis Aguilar, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on January 19, 2008. He died after being struck by a vehicle driven by a suspected smuggler in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area of California.

The work of a Border Patrol agent is inherently dangerous. In the normal course of their work, they run the risk of heat exhaustion, frostbite, and other challenges from the outdoor environment. Of even greater concern is the

threat from smugglers and criminals seeking to illegally cross our borders who engage in violence against our Border Patrol agents.

As more agents, assets, and infrastructure are placed along the border, criminal activity is prevented from continuing with impunity. The unfortunate result of gaining operational control of our borders is an increase in violence targeted at agents. And we have seen a significant spike in the past several years, with nearly 1,000 assaults on agents last year, ranging from rock throwing to sniper attacks and to murder.

Agent Aguilar's death serves as a stark reminder of the risk our law enforcement agents face every day as they seek to secure our Nation's borders. These despicable criminal acts will only strengthen our resolve to secure our borders with additional agents, fencing, vehicle barriers, and technology. The Border Patrol plays a vital role in protecting America, and the sacrifices of its agents will not be forgotten.

I recently conducted an overnight visit on the Southwest border and saw firsthand the challenges and the dangers that these agents face. I returned with the clear resolve to support all the tools, resources, infrastructure, and policies necessary to gain operational control of our borders.

I would like to recognize the excellent work of U.S. law enforcement personnel and the Government of Mexico for tracking down and arresting the primary suspect in the murder of Agent Aguilar on January 22. For the sake of the Aguilar family, the Border Patrol and the justice for Agent Aguilar, I ask the Government of Mexico's continued cooperation and support to extradite this individual to the United States for trial.

The men and women of the Border Patrol face challenges and threats every day with vigilance, dedication to service, and integrity as they work to strengthen our national security and to protect America and its citizens.

I would like to once again extend my condolences to the Aguilar family and sincerely thank Agent Aguilar for his service to our Nation.

I would also like to extend my condolences for the recent passing of Agent Aguilar's mother, Cecilia.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

□ 1415

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding time, and let me also thank Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN for the very important resolution, H. Res. 954, that she introduced.

I rise in support of H. Res. 954 and to honor the life of senior Border Patrol Agent Luis A. Aguilar who lost his life in the line of duty near Yuma, Arizona,

on January 19 of this year. He lost his life on a border filled with dangers for agents who confront organized drug and people smugglers on a daily basis, smugglers who are prepared to go to great and dangerous lengths to protect their profit and to protect the illegal activities they are conducting on the border.

First, let me give my condolences to Mr. Aguilar's family who gave the ultimate sacrifice, his wife, son, and daughter, who have lost an American hero. I'm proud to say that Agent Aguilar lived in Somerton, Arizona. He was originally from El Paso, Texas, but was raising his family in the district that I have the privilege to represent in this Congress.

His life was devoted to this country as he served in the U.S. Border Patrol for more than 5 years. He protected this country and enforced its laws.

For his wife, children, and family, he provided them with a great foundation. He was a devoted family man, actively involved in the lives of his children and his family, making sure that his family was first. Community members could always count on him being there on a T-ball or soccer field cheering on his children and other children.

Luis Aguilar will be remembered as a quiet, yet strong, man who always had a smile on his face for his friends and family.

Mr. Speaker, we may disagree on the nature, the content and the future of an immigration policy for this Nation, but there is no disagreement on the bravery and value of the men and women who carry out this policy for us. In honoring Luis Aguilar and his family, we honor all of them and respect them all.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 954 in memory of Luis Aguilar and in gratitude for his service and the service of his colleagues in the Border Patrol.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California, my good friend, Mr. ROYCE.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor senior Border Patrol Agent Luis Aguilar. He was killed 3 weeks ago on January 19. He was intentionally struck by the driver of a vehicle that he was attempting to stop.

And on that day, Border Patrol agents observed both a Ford pickup truck and a Hummer crossing illegally from Mexico into the United States. It was near Yuma, Arizona, and they began pursuit. The drivers of the two vehicles saw that the agents were following them, and they turned back toward the border. But as Agent Aguilar deployed spike strips, he was intentionally struck by the driver of that Hummer.

His death serves for us as another stark reminder of the dangerous environment our Border Patrol faces every day. Violence against Border Patrol agents, I sadly report, is increasing in

the United States. It has gone up 31 percent. Between 2006 and 2007, the number of incidents rose from 752 attacks to 987 against our Border Patrol agents. Agents are being assaulted with an arsenal of weaponry that includes bottles and knives, bats, ball bearings, steel pipes, cinder blocks, slingshots and vehicles.

When I was chairman of the Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation, I held hearings down on the border, both in Laredo, Texas, and in San Diego, and the focus was on border vulnerabilities and on international terrorism. At that time, there had been some reports of international terrorists trying to cross that border.

One thing the Border Patrol asked us for, and they said this would make an immediate impact on securing our borders and securing our Nation, they asked us for a double border fence, as was finally passed in the Secure Fence Act. Many Americans strongly supported that legislation to construct that fence to help slow illegal entry into the United States, and, quite frankly, they are baffled that Congress took such a step back from strengthening our border security, as we did with that omnibus spending bill earlier this year, because that omnibus spending bill gutted the Secure Fence Act. The Secure Fence Act required double fencing. It would put a fence where it was needed most, in areas that have the highest instances of drug smuggling, of human smuggling, and of gang activity.

The omnibus bill that we passed here, that I opposed, removed the two-tier requirement and the list of locations. It also put up numerous bureaucratic and legal hurdles to undermine the fence's completion. It's past time we strengthen operational control of our borders. We need to use every tool available to give the Border Patrol the support they need to help protect Border Patrol agents as they requested.

Again, I just want to recognize the service of Agent Luis Aguilar, killed in the line of duty.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers at this time, and I am prepared to close if Mr. DAVIS is prepared, also.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. I have another speaker, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to my good friend, Mr. BILBRAY, from California.

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, Agent Aguilar, like myself, was born and raised on the border. He knew the challenges that faced the border. He understood the risks, and sadly, his life, as documented, was the price he paid for out-of-control borders.

I just hope that everyone today, when they vote on this bill and support this bill, recognizes that for all too long Border Patrol agents have not only faced the threat of life-and-death situations along the border while they're enforcing our laws, protecting

our neighborhoods, and protecting the lives of illegal immigrants crossing the border every day. A story that's not told enough about when somebody crossing the border illegally needs to be saved while they're dying in the desert, drowning in rivers, being attacked by coyotes, it's the Border Patrol agents who are the last straw of survival for so many of these illegals.

Border Patrol Aguilar proved his loyalty to America with his life, and sadly, I just ask all of us to remember that there are Aguilar's up and down the border, north and south, all over this country, doing a tough job and, frankly, not getting very much credit, in fact, getting attacked personally and viciously just because they're doing the tough job that the American people want.

I just hope that we understand that our job today is to recognize the sacrifice of the Aguilar family and remember that when Mrs. Aguilar passed away after finding out about her son, I'm sure she would want to send a message of do what you can, Congress, to make sure my other son is safe, protected, and well-provided for in his duties of serving the American people.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask that we recognize the service of not only Agent Aguilar but his mother, his brother, and his entire family, and by doing that, let's be brave enough to send them the resources, both in physical equipment and in the proper laws, that the Border Patrol agents have been asking us to do for a long time so that they do not have to continue to function in this killing zone that we call the border area.

And so I ask strongly the Democrats and Republicans to join together and let's do what we can to avoid this situation in the future. That may mean taking some hits from our friends about building fences or cracking down on illegal employers, doing all those things that we have not done enough in the past, and that, Mr. Speaker, would truly be a good recognition of the service of Agent Aguilar and an appropriate memorial by this Congress.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, might I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Mississippi has 15 minutes. The gentleman from Tennessee has 10½ minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Thank you very much. I continue to reserve, Mr. Speaker. I have no other speakers.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, as I prepare to close, I want to again thank the Aguilar family and pass on the American people's condolences to the Aguilar family. I want to thank his fellow Border Patrol agents who are willing to protect our freedoms each and every day, and I would like to urge my colleagues in support of this resolution this afternoon.

With that, I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to recognize the life of senior Agent Luis Aguilar. The loss of Agent Aguilar not only leaves a big hole in the Border Patrol organization but in the lives of his family.

I'd like to express again my sincere condolences and urge passage of this important resolution.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 954, a resolution honoring the life and career of Senior Border Patrol Agent Luis A. Aguilar who on January 19, 2008 lost his life at the young age of 32 in the line of duty near Yuma, Arizona.

A native of my district of El Paso, Texas, Agent Aguilar began his career with the United States Border Patrol on July 21, 2002 after attending the 519th Session of the Border Patrol Academy. Upon graduation, Agent Aguilar was assigned to the Yuma Border Patrol Sector in Arizona.

On the day of Aguilar's tragic death, he was trying to deflate the tires of a Hummer being driven by a suspected narcotics smuggler who was attempting to flee back to Mexico across the Imperial Sand Dunes. The suspect accelerated while swerving and struck Agent Aguilar who was unable to move from the path of the vehicle. Injuries sustained by the impact caused the tragic loss of Agent Aguilar.

Chief Border Patrol Agent Chief David V. Aguilar posthumously awarded Agent Aguilar the Border Patrol's Purple Cross. This medal is one of the highest honors bestowed on an agent and is awarded to those who have sustained life-threatening injuries or have been killed in the line of duty.

I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Erica and his children, Luis and Arianna. I would also like to ask that the House take a moment to mourn the loss of Agent Aguilar's mother, Cecilia Silva, who just last week lost her fight with cancer. To his father, Luis Aguilar, your son was a hero in my eyes and the eyes of many across the nation.

Agent Aguilar committed his life to his job, and his family showed immense courage in supporting him and his mission. As a former Border Patrol agent myself, I know firsthand the dangers that an agent faces while protecting America's frontlines. Aguilar's dedication to his nation should be acknowledged, and today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Agent Aguilar for his service.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 954, honoring the life of senior border patrol agent Luis A. Aguilar, who lost his life in the line of duty near Yuma, Arizona. Agent Aguilar's death serves as another stark reminder of the risks our front-line agents and officers face each day.

Aguilar was trying to place spike strips in the path of two vehicles believed to have illegally entered the country from Mexico when one of the vehicles hit him. Both vehicles drove back across the border into Mexico. After over 5 years of dedicated service in the United States Border Patrol, Luis Aguilar selflessly paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States.

The fatal incident occurred about 20 miles west of Yuma in the Imperial Sand Dunes

Recreation Area near Andrade, California, just over the California state line from Arizona. This area is frequently used by smugglers carrying people or drugs. A half hour earlier agents had seen a brown Hummer and a red Ford F-250 pickup crossing from Mexico into the United States. The vehicles traveled west on Interstate 8, and the vehicles turned around, heading back the way they had come with the Border Patrol in pursuit.

Luis Aguilar resided in Somerton, Arizona, and is survived by his mother and father, his wife, Erica Aguilar, his two children, Luis and Ariana, his brother, senior Border Patrol agent Marco Antonio Aguilar, and his sister, Angie Aguila.

Border Patrol agents carry out the vital role of protecting our Nation's borders and ensuring the safety of the United States. Agents work devotedly and selflessly on behalf of the people of the United States, without regard for the peril or danger to themselves; and the United States will forever be grateful for the service of Luis Aguilar and mourn his loss.

I recognize the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as United States Border Patrol agents. I honor Luis Aguilar for his service as a Border Patrol agent and for his sacrifice to the United States and extend my deepest condolences to the family of Luis Aguilar.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, although we sometimes disagree in the debate over broader immigration policy, we all agree on one thing—that we should recognize and honor the brave Border Patrol agents who risk their lives every day on our border.

Day in and day out, in often harsh conditions over unforgiving terrain, they seek to protect our borders, save from death those economic migrants lost in the desert, and protect our country. They often do battle with drug smugglers and human traffickers who have no respect for authority—or even life. Yet rarely are these agents recognized for their courage or their sacrifice.

Unfortunately, sometimes it takes a tragedy for us to publicly recognize the selfless contributions that these Americans make for their country on a daily basis.

In this case, that tragedy is the death of Luis Aguilar, a Senior Border Patrol agent who lost his life in the line of duty while trying to apprehend suspected drug smugglers near Yuma, Arizona on January 19, 2008.

Agent Aguilar leaves behind his loving wife, Erica; his two children, Luis and Arianna; his brother, Marco Antonio, also a Senior Border Patrol agent; his sister, Angie; and his parents, Luis Aguilar and Cecilia Silva. They have all paid a heavy price for the service Luis Aguilar gave to protect this great Nation.

Today we honor Agent Aguilar and all of the other Border Patrol agents who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, as well as the families of all those who have fallen.

This Nation owes a debt of gratitude to them and all of the other Border Patrol agents who devotedly and selflessly work to keep us safe.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 954, a resolution honoring Senior Border Patrol Agent Luis A. Aguilar, who recently lost his life in the line of duty.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated, brave group of men and women working to secure America's borders. Their efforts and expertise are critical to the success of any border security strategy, and to protecting our nation from dangerous individuals and goods. As the chair of the House Subcommittee on Border, Maritime and Global Counterterrorism, I am familiar with the terrain, conditions, and challenges of the southwest border and I deeply respect and value the work of our Border Patrol agents.

I am saddened to rise today to recognize the loss of one of our dedicated Border Patrol agents. On the morning of Saturday, January 19, 2008, Senior Border Patrol Agent Luis A. Aguilar lost his life in the line of duty as he attempted to stop a suspected drug smuggler fleeing through California's Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area outside Yuma, Arizona. We have heard that Agent Aguilar, an El Paso native and nearly 6-year veteran of the Border Patrol, was not supposed to be working that day. However, he reported to work when he realized he was needed.

Aguilar's father, a bailiff in El Paso for Judge Mary Ann Bramblett, said senior Agent Aguilar felt a strong commitment to his job and to preventing the flow of illegal drugs across our borders from reaching our communities and families. Judge Bramblett, who knew senior Agent Aguilar since he was a boy, said, "One of the ways he felt he could really give back to the country was to serve in the Border Patrol. Serving his country and serving his family were the two most important things Luis had in his life."

Mr. Speaker, Senior Border Patrol Agent Luis A. Aguilar gave his life serving our nation. I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Agent Aguilar's extraordinary sacrifice, and in offering our sincere sympathy to his family, friends, and loved ones.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. 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 Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 954, as amended.

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. THOMPSON of Mississippi. 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.

□ 1430

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2251) to extend the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, to provide improved visitor services at the park, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2251

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Acadia National Park Improvement Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF LAND CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY.

Section 102(d) of Public Law 99-420 (16 U.S.C. 341 note) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) Federally owned property under jurisdiction of the Secretary referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be conveyed to the towns in which the property is located without encumbrance and without monetary consideration, except that no town shall be eligible to receive such lands unless lands within the Park boundary and owned by the town have been acquired by the Secretary."

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 103(f) of Public Law 99-420 (16 U.S.C. 341 note) is amended by striking "20" and inserting "40".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on September 25, 2006.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 106 of Public Law 99-420 (16 U.S.C. 341 note) is amended by adding the following:

"(c) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—In addition to such sums as have been heretofore appropriated, there is hereby authorized \$10,000,000."

SEC. 5. INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER.

Title I of Public Law 99-420 (16 U.S.C. 341 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 108. INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide assistance in the planning, construction, and operation of an intermodal transportation center located outside of the boundary of the Park in the town of Trenton, Maine to improve the management, interpretation, and visitor enjoyment of the Park.

"(b) AGREEMENTS.—To carry out subsection (a), in administering the intermodal transportation center, the Secretary may enter into interagency agreements with other Federal agencies, and, notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, cooperative agreements, under appropriate terms and conditions, with State and local agencies, and nonprofit organizations—

"(1) to provide exhibits, interpretive services (including employing individuals to provide such services), and technical assistance;

"(2) to conduct activities that facilitate the dissemination of information relating to the Park and the Island Explorer transit system or any successor transit system;

"(3) to provide financial assistance for the construction of the intermodal transportation center in exchange for space in the center that is sufficient to interpret the Park; and

"(4) to assist with the operation and maintenance of the intermodal transportation center.

"(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary not more than 40 percent of the total cost necessary to carry out this section (including planning, design and construction of the intermodal transportation center).

"(2) OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary not more than 85 percent of the total cost necessary to maintain and operate the intermodal transportation center."