

neglect and exploitation. The bill also directs the Department to develop a long-term plan addressing the prevention and detection of elder abuse, intervention and treatment of victims, and training and evaluation of elder abuse programs. The National Institute of Justice within the Department has been studying elder justice issues for several years and issued a preliminary report on the subject in 2006. It is fitting that the National Institute of Justice continue its work and undertake the study directed by this legislation.

During the Judiciary Committee markup of H.R. 5352, we expanded the scope of these grants to include identity theft, mail fraud, and telemarketing fraud as additional types of victimization for elder abuse grants. The bill now also authorizes the Department of Justice to award grants for electronic monitoring of older Americans. These funds will support monitoring programs offered by local law enforcement agencies and first responders to locate missing elderly.

These changes, among others, have improved H.R. 5352 and will assist States with protecting our senior citizens and prosecuting elder abuse.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I am the last speaker on my side, so I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. COBLE. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5352, the Elder Abuse Victims Act, is a good bill. Our seniors deserve to know that we are doing everything we can to protect them from abuse. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008, which includes the ElderServe Act, which I introduced last May to protect our Nation's senior citizens from abuse through better coordination of services.

In my hometown of Louisville, for over half a century, we've seen first-hand as ElderServe Inc, a local non-profit, has facilitated the coordination necessary for thousands and thousands of seniors to have peace in their golden years.

One of the many areas that ElderServe has excelled in providing emergency services to seniors who experience physical or psychological abuse and neglect—problems that afflict more than two million victims nationwide.

Experts estimate that only 20 percent of all cases of elder abuse are reported. Still 70 percent of the caseload at Adult Protective Services comes from victims over the age of 65. These instances of abuse and neglect know no boundaries, affecting men and women across all racial, social, socio-economic, and geographic divides. And with the country's 76 million baby boomers approaching retirement age, the problems will only intensify if we don't create a network equipped to respond.

The ElderServe Act will create Emergency Crisis Response Teams, or ECRT's, that foster community collaboration between existing services and consolidating services for elder abuse victims. In most communities, victims of

elder abuse have great difficulty navigating services and aid. But in Louisville, ECRT's have been incredibly successful in bringing various entities together to provide immediate help and services to elder abuse victims. The approach ensures that elder abuse victims no longer fall through the cracks and are given the housing, healthcare, and follow up they need. For those who cannot go to law enforcement, law enforcement will come to them.

The ElderServe Act authorizes the creation of pilot programs that will coordinate local law enforcement, short-term housing placements, bereavement services, adult protective services, legal advocacy services, job placement assistance, health care, and other services.

If the program is infused with same passion and care as we have seen in Louisville; if we provide necessary resources, we will have created a reliable place that a senior can turn to, anywhere in the Nation, to recover from and also to prevent elder abuse.

America's seniors spent decades working, contributing, and raising families in our communities. Yet each day thousands are assaulted or neglected, with nowhere to turn but an overtaxed, under-coordinated system. For many they receive help too late or not at all. Many give up waiting for help, and others never seek assistance in the first place. The ElderServe Act can change all that. I, therefore, strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Elder Abuse Victims Act and working to eliminate elder abuse forever.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5352, the "Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008". This bill addresses health and safety issues for elders. This bill will protect the most vulnerable members of our society: the elderly.

I strongly support this bill and have authored an amendment that was accepted in Committee. I will discuss more about my amendment later. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Each year in the United States, between one-half million to five million elders are abused, neglected or exploited. Experts agree that most cases are never reported. Data collected on the problem is minimal, and there has been no comprehensive national approach to solving the many problems. In fact, the House has held only one hearing on elder abuse, over 16 years ago, in 1991. These problems likely will increase in the next 30 years, as 76 million baby boomers approach retirement.

H.R. 5352 establishes a national Elder Justice Coordinating Council and Advisory Board on Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation. Its purpose is to protect seniors in the United States from elder abuse by establishing specialized elder abuse prosecution and research programs and providing training for law enforcement and prosecutors.

My amendment, which was included at the Committee, allows a voluntary electronic monitoring pilot program to assist with the elderly when they are reported missing. Specifically, my amendment allows the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to issue grants to states and local government to carry out pilot programs to provide voluntary electronic monitoring services to elderly individuals to assist in the location of such individuals when they are reported missing. This amendment helps elderly people. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. SUTTON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5352, 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. BROUN of Georgia. 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.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AZOREAN REFUGEE ACT OF 1958

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1438) commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958 and celebrating the extensive contributions of Portuguese-American communities to the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1438

Whereas from September 27, 1957, until October 24, 1958, a series of violent eruptions and earthquakes that amounted to a natural calamity destroyed the economic infrastructure in Faial Island, Portugal, and impacted all of the 9 islands in the Azores archipelago;

Whereas most of Faial Island's 25,000 people lost their livelihoods in the midst of fumes, smoke, lava, and constant earthquakes, and had no choice but to escape to other islands in the Azores;

Whereas the United States offered a helping hand to the distressed people of the Azores by introducing and passing the Azorean Refugee Act, spearheaded by Senators John Pastore of Rhode Island and John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, which became Public Law 85-892;

Whereas the Azorean Refugee Act made 1,500 special nonquota immigrant visas available to the destitute victims of the Capelinhos Volcano in the Azores, and was extended until 1962 to allow the entry of an even greater number of refugees;

Whereas the eruption of the Capelinhos Volcano led to a wave of Portuguese immigration that brought more than 175,000 Azoreans to the United States between 1960 and 1980;

Whereas according to the United States Census from the year 2000, there were 1,176,615 Portuguese-Americans in the United States, and the vast majority of these were of Azorean descent;

Whereas major communities of Portuguese-Americans of Azorean descent can be found in southeastern New England; the areas around San Francisco, San Diego, and the San Joaquin Valley, California; Hawaii; and the New Jersey/New York metropolitan area;

Whereas these recent immigrants have built on the work initiated by earlier arrivals, and through their remarkable work

ethic have, among other activities, distinguished themselves in farming and fishing;

Whereas by the 1970s, roughly half of all dairy farms in the San Joaquin Valley were owned and operated by Portuguese-Americans and contributed to making California the number one dairy producing State in the Nation;

Whereas the Portuguese of the American east coast have dominated the fishing industry, and contributed to making New Bedford, Massachusetts, one of our Nation's greatest seaports;

Whereas Portuguese immigrants and their descendants have contributed substantially to American workforce, leadership, and culture, and produced successful physicians, lawyers, and university professors;

Whereas in the public sector, Portuguese-Americans have become legislators at the local, State, and Federal level, State attorney generals, justices, judges, and successful lawyers, and are members of school committees and boards, as well as city councils;

Whereas as the governor of California, Ronald Reagan proclaimed the 2nd week of March as Portuguese Immigrant Week in 1969; and

Whereas President John F. Kennedy recognized that immigrants coming from the Azores had made excellent contributions to our Nation as citizens: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958;

(2) celebrates the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958 as worthy and admirable legislation that represented America at its finest, reaching out to people in need; and

(3) recognizes the momentous contributions of Portuguese immigrants and their descendants to the United States, who have so greatly enriched our Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SUTTON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 1438 is sponsored by our colleagues from California, Representatives NUNES and COSTA.

H. Res. 1438 commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958, and celebrates the extensive contributions of Portuguese-American communities to the United States.

From September 27, 1957, until October 24, 1958, a series of violent disruptions and earthquakes destroyed the infrastructure of Faial Island, in Portugal's Azores archipelago, and impacted the other eight islands in the Azores as well.

The majority of the Faial Island's 25,000 people lost their livelihoods in the midst of fumes, smoke, lava and

constant earthquakes, and had no choice but to escape to other islands in the Azores.

The United States, as we so often have in crises of these magnitudes, offered a helping hand to the distressed people of the region through the Azorean Refugee Act. This was spearheaded by Senators John Pastore of Rhode Island and John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts.

The Azorean Refugee Act made 1,500 special non-quota immigrant visas available to the destitute victims of the Capelinhos Volcano in the Azores. It was later extended to allow entry of an even greater number of refugees.

As a result, more than 175,000 Azoreans came to the United States between 1960 and 1980. The 2000 census placed the total number of Portuguese Americans at 1,176,615. The vast majority of these are of Azorean descent.

The communities founded by those immigrants can be found in southeastern New England, the areas around San Francisco, San Diego, and San Joaquin Valley, California, Hawaii, and the New Jersey/New York metropolitan area.

In a very short period of time, these immigrants have built on the accomplishments of earlier arrivals. Through their remarkable work ethic, they have distinguished themselves in innumerable fields of endeavor, especially in farming and fishing. By the 1970s, roughly half of all of the dairy farms in the San Joaquin Valley were owned and operated by Portuguese Americans, helping to make California the number one dairy-producing State in the Nation.

□ 1445

On the East Coast, Portuguese-Americans have played a prominent role in the fishing industry, and contributed to making New Bedford, Massachusetts one of our Nation's greatest seaports.

Portuguese immigrants and their descendants have contributed substantially to this Nation. They are leaders in business, culture and many other professions. They are found in every level of government and in our military, proudly serve the Nation that offered them a helping hand when they needed it most.

This Nation has been repaid many times over during the last half century by these immigrants from the Azores and their descendants. Their success story is a demonstration of just what makes our country so great and so strong. By welcoming people with talent and initiative from around the world, we have become a better nation. The Azoreans are a prime example of just how important this has been to the United States over the generations.

I am pleased to stand with my colleagues to mark the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958. It is fitting that we honor this group of Americans and recall how well they have repaid our generosity and our openness. It is a lesson for our generation and for future generations.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I support this resolution. H. Res. 1438, Mr. Speaker, commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958, and celebrates the contributions that Portuguese-Americans have made to the United States.

In the late 1950s a series of volcanic eruptions and earthquakes devastated the Portuguese Azorean islands. In an important humanitarian gesture, the United States absorbed thousands of Azorean refugees following the enactment of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958.

Since that time, hundreds of thousands of Azoreans and other Portuguese have migrated to the United States. They have made important contributions to many aspects of American society and the American economy. They are most well-known for their contributions to America's fishing and dairy industries.

President Jaime Gama of the Portuguese Parliament, the Assembly of the Republic, is currently heading a delegation visiting Washington. This is a perfect opportunity for us to pass H. Res. 1438 to commemorate the Azorean Refugee Act, and to acknowledge the continuing friendship between the American and the Portuguese people.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, at this time it is my honor to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today it is my honor to rise in strong support of House Resolution 1438, which commemorates, as noted by the two previous speakers, the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958.

This resolution is sponsored by the Portuguese Caucus, my colleagues and good friend Congressman DEVIN NUNES and Congressman DENNIS CARDOZA. We've worked on this together, not only to take note of this significant anniversary, but also to coordinate with our guests, the President of the Portuguese Parliament and three members of the House of Deputies.

It was September 27, 1957, when the island of Faial experienced a series of volcanic eruptions that lasted for over a year and shattered the economic infrastructure of that island, and had impacts throughout the Archipelago.

During that time, two great United States Senators, John Pastore of Rhode Island, who represented a large Portuguese constituency, and Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, later to become the 35th President of the United States, offered to help those who were suffering as a result of this natural event that devastated the islands. They did so by drafting and passing the law of Azorean Refugee Act of 1958.

It made available special non-quota immigrant visas available to the victims of the earthquakes and volcanoes, and it was extended until 1963, that allowed even more refugees to come to the United States.

Between 1960 and 1980, over 175,000 Azoreans have come to establish and develop their roots in the United States and, at the same time, maintain their family relationships to their friends and their members of their families in the Azores and in Portugal. In fact, the 2000 U.S. Census showed that there were almost 2 million Portuguese-Americans in the United States, many of them of Azorean descent.

Mr. Speaker, these Portuguese immigrants have contributed greatly to the fabric of our Nation, not only in the Northeast and New England, but in California as well. As has been noted, they have participated in all walks of life. In my district and Mr. CARDOZA and Mr. NUNES' the Portuguese-Americans have been dominant in the San Joaquin Valley, not just in the dairy industry, but yes, they've also become teachers and doctors and judges and yes, even Members of Congress.

The Portuguese culture is thriving in the San Joaquin Valley, and there are many festas throughout the year, family reunions, the exchanges of those traditions and the ties that bind us quite well.

It's important to note that we have, as I mentioned a moment ago, a visiting delegation. Up in the gallery we have the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal, President Jaime Gama. With him are the former Speaker, Joao Moto Amaral, next to him is a member of the House of Deputies, Antonio Filipe, as well as Ricardo Rodrigues. And we're very appreciative that they be could be here to witness this 50th anniversary and this acknowledgment, because we need to understand that it's more than just like immigrants before and immigrants since. We have had a solid relationship with Portugal with the largest Air Force base, military strategic diplomatic involvement as it relates to just not Europe but the Middle East and Africa, all very vital to America's interests.

Again, we want to recognize all those Portuguese-Americans for their contributions to our Nation, the Azoreans who came to America under this Azorean Refugee Act. We want to thank our Portuguese Caucus, Congressman NUNES, CARDOZA, Congressman FRANK, Congressman KENNEDY and MCGOVERN, all who are cosponsors of this resolution who represent significant Portuguese communities.

We also want to thank Chairman CONYERS, Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH and the leadership on both sides for moving this resolution in an expedited fashion through the committee process and onto the floor. We urge an "aye" vote.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is reminded that it is improper to refer to guests in the gallery.

Ms. SUTTON. May I inquire how many more speakers the gentleman from North Carolina has?

Mr. COBLE. I have no more speakers, and I yield back, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. SUTTON. I thank my friend from North Carolina, not only for his work in support of this resolution, but for all the things that we're able to work together on in the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 1438 is an important bill to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act and celebrate the extensive contributions of Portuguese-American communities to our Nation.

I commend the distinguished gentleman, Mr. COSTA, for his leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by taking us back 50 years ago, to the islands of the Azores, in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. At that time, the peaceful communities of these islands relied on each other to maintain their livelihood, and the mainly agrarian lifestyles of its peoples were sustained by this interconnectedness. Then, in 1957, a tragic and unexpected turn of events, brought about by a natural disaster, severely destabilized the lives of these proud and hard-working people.

It was September 27, 1957, when the island of Faial experienced a series of volcanic eruptions that lasted for over a year and immediately shattered its economic infrastructure. In its aftermath, the Capelinhos volcano left behind overwhelming material, physical and psychological damage.

The cohesive Portuguese communities already present in the United States at the time rallied behind the victims of this volcano, and unified into a great movement that called for special quotas to allow these victims into the United States. In 1958, in great part resulting from these efforts, Senator John Pastore from Rhode Island introduced S. 3942, the Azorean Refugee Act. This bill proposed the issuance of 1,500 non-quota visas to the Faial victims, providing relief in face of such devastating tragedy. Senator John Fitzgerald Kennedy cosponsored this bill, and along with Senator Pastore, became one of the leading proponents of this legislation. Their efforts finally materialized on August 18, 1958, when the Azorean Refugee Act was finally signed into law, becoming Public Law 85-892.

By November of 1959, the 1,500 special quota visas allowed by the Azorean Refugee Act had already been issued, with more than 3,000 persons from Faial having already immigrated to United States. With the rippling effects of the Capelinhos volcano still being felt in the Azores, the number of visas was elevated to 2,000 in 1960, and then in 1961, a new law permitted the entrance for 2,500 additional Azorean refugees. In total, more than 5,000 visas were issued, effectively shifting the formerly restrictive immigration laws of our country.

The Portuguese community's push to liberalize our immigration policies transformed this Act into one of the most important special laws in our history. In this sense, it was the

most important contribution of the Portuguese-American community to the eventual reform of American immigration policy in 1965. As a direct result of the Azorean Refugee Act, the United States Government began to liberalize its immigration laws, and around 25,000 Portuguese citizens eventually immigrated to this country. This law revitalized the long history of Portuguese immigration to the United States, and once again, allowed our great Nation to benefit from the many qualities these people had to offer.

The immigrants arriving from the Azores reached the shores of the United States as manual laborers, and without much proper education they relied solely on the fruits of their hard work to earn their living. Portuguese immigrants distinguished themselves in farming, fishing, and other trades, and built for this Nation a solid foundation of honesty and pride in their work. Subsequent generations have rested upon this heritage to succeed in our society, with a great many Portuguese-American communities producing professors, lawyers, physicians, judges, politicians and other leading figures of our society.

Fifty years later, the admirable successes of Portuguese-American communities throughout California, New England, and elsewhere are a testament to their remarkable work ethic and integrity, which truly inspire us all. Their story is one of sweat, toils, and struggles before a new land, and in itself reflects the very spirit of this nation.

For all of that, this resolution recognizes the great importance, of the Azorean Refugee Act, and the vast contributions made by these Azorean communities, who truly turned tragedy into triumph. Let us never forget that America's strength rests on the inclusion of people from all parts of the world and in the generosity that flows from our ideals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Ms. SUTTON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1438.

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.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF AARP

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1464) recognizing and honoring the 50th anniversary of the founding of AARP.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1464

Whereas AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with over 40 million members that is dedicated to improving the quality of life of people 50 and over as they age;

Whereas AARP was founded in 1958 by Ethel Percy Andrus, a retired educator from