

of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, to provide special pays and allowances to certain members of the Armed Forces, expand concurrent receipt of military retirement and VA disability benefits to disabled military retirees, and for other purposes.”

COMMENDING HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES AND ANTI-TERRORISM PARTNERS

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 731) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the employees of the Department of Homeland Security, their partners at all levels of government, and the millions of emergency response providers and law enforcement agents nationwide should be commended for their dedicated service on the Nation's front lines in the war against acts of terrorism.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 731

Whereas it has been 8 years since the horrific terrorist attacks against the United States and its people on September 11, 2001;

Whereas terrorists around the world continue to plot and plan attacks against the United States and its interests and foreign allies;

Whereas, as evidenced by a suicide bomb attack in Jerusalem that killed 22 people and wounded 140 on March 27, 2002, a car bomb that exploded outside a Marriott Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, on August 5, 2003, killing 10 people and wounding 150, 10 bombs that exploded on 4 commuter trains in Madrid on March 11, 2004, killing 191 people, a major anti-terrorist operation by British Police disrupts an alleged bomb plot targeting multiple airplanes bound for the United States flying through Heathrow Airport, near London on August 10, 2006, and the shooting and bombing attacks in Mumbai, India, on November 26, 2008, the thwarted terrorist attacks targeting the Brooklyn Bridge in March 2003, Herald Square in New York City in 2004, the PATH Tunnel trains in New York and New Jersey in 2006, the U.S. Army Base at Fort Dix, New Jersey in May 2007, JFK International Airport in June 2007, and the Air National Guard base in Newburgh, New York and synagogues in Riverdale and the Bronx, New York in 2009, citizens across the country and in the world should remain vigilant, prepared, and informed;

Whereas during the month of September, the Nation observes National Preparedness Month which is sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security, and encourages all citizens to prepare themselves and their families for possible emergencies by getting an emergency supply kit that will last 72 hours, making a family emergency plan, being informed, and getting involved in the community in organizations such as Citizen Corps, which actively involves citizens in making our communities and our Nation safer, stronger, and better prepared;

Whereas acts of terrorism can exact a tragic human toll, resulting in significant numbers of casualties and disrupting hundreds of

thousands of lives, causing serious damage to our Nation's critical infrastructure, and inflicting billions of dollars of costs on both our public and private sectors;

Whereas in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, and the continuing grave threat of terrorism, Congress established the Department of Homeland Security in March 2003, bringing together 22 disparate Federal entities, enhancing their capabilities with major new divisions emphasizing terrorism-related information analysis, infrastructure protection, and science and technology, and focusing their employees on the critical mission of defending our Nation against acts of terrorism;

Whereas since its creation, the employees of the Department of Homeland Security have endeavored to carry out this mission with commendable dedication, working with other Federal intelligence and law enforcement agencies and partners at all levels of Government to help secure our Nation's borders, airports, seaports, critical infrastructure, and communities against terrorist attacks;

Whereas our Nation's firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical personnel, and other first responders selflessly and repeatedly risk their lives to fulfill their new mission of helping to prevent, protect against, and prepare to respond to acts of terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies;

Whereas State, local, territorial, and tribal government officials, the private sector, and ordinary citizens across the country have been working in cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security and other Federal Government agencies to enhance our ability to prevent, deter, protect against, and prepare to respond to acts of terrorism;

Whereas all people of the United States can assist in promoting our Nation's overall terrorism and emergency preparedness by remaining vigilant and alert, reporting suspicious activity to proper authorities, and preparing themselves and their families for potential terrorist attacks; and

Whereas all people of the United States should take the opportunity during National Preparedness Month in September 2009 to take steps at home, work, and school to enhance their ability to assist in preventing, protecting against, and preparing to respond to acts of terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the public servants of the Department of Homeland Security and other Federal agencies for their outstanding contributions to our Nation's homeland security;

(2) salutes the dedication of State, local, territorial, and tribal government officials, the private sector, and citizens across the country for their efforts to enhance the Nation's ability to prevent, deter, protect against, and prepare to respond to potential acts of terrorism;

(3) expresses the Nation's appreciation for the sacrifices and commitment of our law enforcement and emergency response personnel in preventing and preparing to respond to acts of terrorism;

(4) supports the goals and ideals of National Preparedness Month as they relate to the threat of terrorism; and

(5) urges the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe National Preparedness Month with appropriate events and activities that promote citizen and community preparedness to respond to acts of terrorism.

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

New York (Ms. CLARKE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert 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. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 731, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am proud that my resolution, House Resolution 731, is being considered by the full House on this, the last day of National Preparedness Month, 2009.

I thank Homeland Security Chairman Mr. BENNIE THOMPSON of Mississippi, along with Ranking Member PETER KING of New York, for cosponsoring House Resolution 731 and for their great help in moving this resolution through committee and to the House floor for consideration. I also want to thank the other cosponsors of this resolution too numerous to name at this time.

Our committee has come together in a bipartisan manner to show support for this important resolution. After all, emergency preparedness is not a partisan issue.

House Resolution 731 supports the goals and ideals of National Preparedness Month, a nationwide, coordinated effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps in their homes, businesses, and schools to prepare for emergencies of all kinds.

This month marked the 6th year that the Department of Homeland Security has observed September as National Emergency Preparedness Month. In promoting the month, DHS partnered with over 2,400 organizations, including the American Red Cross and the Ad Council, to launch a series of Web, radio, television, and outdoor public service announcements. The PSAs highlight simple steps everyone can take to prepare for disasters. The campaign also utilizes new media resources such as Twitter and Facebook to reach up to over 80 percent of Americans.

One of the most important lessons from the tragic attacks on September 11, 2001, and Hurricane Katrina is that we all must be vigilant about preparing for an emergency. Recent wildfires, floods, tropical storms, and tornadoes have given us the opportunity to observe whether those lessons have since been corrected.

The dedicated employees of the Department of Homeland Security, under the new leadership of Secretary Janet Napolitano, and other Federal agencies successfully coordinated with State and local officials, first responders, and the private sector to assist with the

pre-positioning of lifesaving equipment, evacuation efforts, and search and rescue operations.

□ 1045

Similarly, we saw Americans donating their time and resources to assist communities in need.

House Resolution 731 also applauds the public servants at the Department of Homeland Security for their outstanding dedication to securing our Nation.

We know that terrorists across the world continue to target precious lives and critical infrastructure, as evidenced by various suicide bombings in recent years. Attacks in Mumbai, India, last year hit close to home for my constituents, with the loss of Rabbi Gavriel Holtzberg and his wife, Rivka, two pillars of the Crown Heights, Brooklyn, community and the Chabad-Lubavitch Hasidic movement of Orthodox Judaism.

Yet, while we are fortunate that DHS, their Federal intelligence partners, and law enforcement agents have successfully thwarted further attacks on American soil since 9/11, a flurry of recent arrests in New York City, Colorado, and Dallas relating to alleged terrorist plots reminds us that America is still vulnerable.

I must commend the New York City Police Department, especially Commissioner Ray Kelly; deputy commissioner for counterterrorism, Dr. Richard Falkenrath; and Captain Michael Riggio, for their unyielding commitment to protecting my constituents and all the residents of New York City.

Just this Saturday, President Obama praised New York's finest for their outstanding work in securing our city during the U.N. General Assembly session and their exceptional teamwork in their coordination efforts with other police departments and with Federal partners in an ongoing investigation of an alleged terrorist plot.

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

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

I rise in support of House Resolution 731, sponsored by my committee colleague YVETTE CLARKE, my good friend, and of which I am an original cosponsor.

September is National Preparedness Month, and I think it is fitting that we are honoring the men and women at all levels of government who work every day to ensure our safety and security.

We recently commemorated the eighth anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks. It is not a coincidence that there has not been an attack on the United States in the 8 years since September 11. It is through the efforts of the brave men and women at the Department of Homeland Security and their partners at all levels of government. We are thankful for the work of law enforcement and emergency response providers nationwide.

The recently foiled terrorist plots in New York, Dallas, and Illinois served to remind us that terrorists are still intent on attacking our country. We must remain vigilant and support our law enforcement and emergency response providers in their efforts. These hardworking men and women often work behind the scenes and do not receive the recognition they deserve for all of their efforts to prevent, prepare for, and protect against terrorist attacks, natural disasters and other emergencies.

Our constituents have a role to play as well. On the Federal level, the Department of Homeland Security's Ready Campaign works to increase awareness and preparedness for terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other emergencies. The Ready Campaign encourages individuals and families to have a preparedness kit and a plan and to be informed of possible threats to their area.

In Florida, our Division of Emergency Management also encourages citizen and community preparedness. Through its Web site, floridadisaster.org, individuals and families can use a tool to develop a disaster plan that includes information on the necessary food and water to have on hand, evacuation points and other important checklists. This is an important resource and one that I urge my constituents to take advantage of to prepare their families.

Everyone has a role to play in the safety and security of our Nation. I want to thank subcommittee Chairwoman YVETTE CLARKE for introducing this legislation to honor the individuals working to secure our Nation and highlighting National Preparedness Month and the need for citizen preparedness.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers. If the gentleman from Florida has no more speakers, then I'm prepared to close after the gentleman closes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I'm prepared to close. I have no other speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is important to recognize the hard work that Federal Homeland Security employees, emergency response providers and all law enforcement personnel are doing to prevent, prepare for and respond to terrorism, natural disasters and other emergencies. This resolution is a small token of our appreciation for their efforts to keep us safe and secure.

I urge all of our colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

In closing, on this last day of National Preparedness Month 2009, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 731 and to also encourage their constituents to visit www.ready.gov where they can learn how to be vigilant, alert and prepared for an emergency.

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 731 to observe National Preparedness Month.

As a representative of a district that is prone to disasters and an original cosponsor of H. Res. 731, I speak on behalf of citizens who realize the significance of personal preparedness.

The second district of Louisiana contains one of the world's largest ports. Thus, security and protection from external threats is important to us.

It is imperative that all citizens are encouraged to prepare themselves and their families for possible emergencies by attaining supply kits, making a family emergency plan, and getting involved in the community in organizations such as Citizen Corps.

Through H. Res. 731, we honor the public servants, government officials, and private citizens who work hard to keep our families secure from disasters and prepared for response to potential acts of terrorism.

We express our appreciation for the commitment of law enforcement and emergency response personnel in supporting the goals and ideals of National Preparedness Month.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H. Res. 731.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 731, the "National Preparedness Month Resolution." September is National Preparedness Month and this resolution honors the public servants of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Response Personnel for their commitment to securing our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my dear friend and colleague, Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE, for calling on Members and the rest of the country to join her in commending and recognizing the men and women who dedicate their lives to preventing and preparing for any future terrorist attack.

The Department of Homeland Security was born out of the tragedy of September 11 and through the hard work and commitment of the employees of the Department of Homeland Security, our Nation has remained safe and secure from terrorist threats for the past 8 years. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Department of Homeland Security and other emergency response personnel for committing themselves to this noble and necessary cause.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the employees of the Department of Homeland Security that work tirelessly in my district, the 37th Congressional District of California. These men and women can be seen hard at work in various local branches of the Coast Guard, Immigration Services, Law Enforcement, Army, and Navy. I appreciate the sacrifices and commitment of those men and women who work every day to secure the community of Long Beach, California.

As we celebrate National Preparedness Month, I urge all Members to take a moment to honor the men and women that dedicate their lives to emergency preparedness and protecting this country from another terrorist attack.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 731 and thank my colleague, Ms. CLARKE, for introducing it. This resolution applauds the public servants at the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, for their outstanding dedication to securing our Nation.

More importantly, House Resolution 731 encourages citizens to prepare themselves and their families to respond to any emergency—whether it is an act of terror, natural disaster, or other crisis.

Today marks the end of National Preparedness Month, NPM, which DHS has successfully promoted for the last 6 years. NPM is sponsored by the Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps program, and is designed to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. DHS has partnered with 2,400 coalition members across the country to promote the message that preparedness is a shared responsibility and that we all must do our part to be ready when disaster strikes.

As a former volunteer firefighter, I know that lives are saved when the public takes steps to prepare for the worst. And as the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, I want the people of this Nation to take the necessary steps to prepare themselves in the event of an emergency. To be prepared, all individuals should visit www.ready.gov and take three simple steps. These steps are:

1. Get a Kit. All households should build a disaster supply kit that includes enough supplies for each family member for three days. The kit should include basic items such as water, food, medicine, batteries, flashlights, hygiene materials, and blankets.

2. Make a Plan. Every family should develop and communicate with each other their evacuation or sheltering plan. The plan should correspond to the school, work and community of every member of the family. All families are encouraged to practice this plan to ensure familiarity with evacuation or meeting routes, have cell phones charged and keep a charger in the car.

3. Be informed. We all need to know about the type of disasters or emergencies that may occur where we live, work and play. Every citizen should also learn about what to do in the event of a biological, chemical, explosive, nuclear or radiological attack.

In addition to getting a kit, making a plan, and being informed, citizens can also get involved in helping their neighbors prepare. To learn how you can contribute to the Citizen Corps program, which brings together communities in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response and recovery efforts, visit the www.citizen corps.gov website.

Mr. Speaker, an August 2009 survey commissioned by FEMA's Citizen Corps program shows we have a long way to go as a nation in preparing our communities for a disaster. According to the survey, just 56 percent of respondents reported having disaster supply kits in their home. Only 50 percent were familiar with emergency alert and warning systems, and just 38 percent were familiar with local sources of public safety information.

We must close these gaps. National Preparedness Month is one such step toward doing just that. It is an important national public awareness campaign that promotes citizen and community preparedness.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I support H. Res. 731 and urge adoption of this resolution.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 731. The Department of Homeland Security has worked diligently to keep us safe since the devastating attacks on 9/11.

And thankfully we've not had a successful attack since then—it's not because of luck, but

due to the hard work of the men and women who work every day to secure the Homeland.

The over 200,000 employees of 22 agencies that make up the Department deserve our utmost gratitude for their steadfast resolve and commitment to prevent acts of terror against our citizens.

They have worked to increase cooperation between our intelligence and defense communities.

They have strengthened our preparedness and created partnerships among Federal agencies and local and state first responders.

These employees patrol our land and sea borders, secure our airports and Ports of Entry and safeguard critical infrastructure.

Theirs is truly a 24/7 job whose successes are rarely known or acknowledged.

As the recent arrest of Najibullah Zazi, the Afghan accused of plotting to plant bombs in New York shows, we still face many challenges to stop the threat of terrorism on our shores and in our cities and towns.

Border security must be enhanced; we must remain vigilant if we are to continue to disrupt plots and attacks on our nation. Complacency isn't an option because as we have seen over and over again, the intent to commit acts of terrorism remains strong.

Defending the homeland will take more than just a Federal effort—our fire fighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical personnel, and other first responders selflessly and repeatedly risk their lives to fulfill their mission of helping to prevent, and prepare to respond to, acts of terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies.

All Americans should take the opportunity during National Preparedness Month this September to take steps at home, work, and school to enhance their ability to assist in preventing, protecting against, and preparing to respond to acts of terrorism.

I commend the work of our first responders and the Department of Homeland Security. I offer my full cooperation in meeting our shared goals of keeping America safe and secure.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 731.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON FOR WINNING 2009 WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 517) congratulating the University of Washington women's softball team for winning the 2009 Women's College World Series.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 517

Whereas, on June 2, 2009, for the first time in school history, the Women Huskies won the NCAA National Softball Championship game with a 3-2 victory over the University of Florida;

Whereas University of Washington pitcher Danielle Lawrie was named the Women's College World Series MVP and the USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Year;

Whereas the Huskies finished the 2009 season with an impressive record of 51-12;

Whereas the members of the 2009 University of Washington softball team are excellent representatives of a university that is one of the premier academic institutions in Washington State, producing many outstanding student-athletes and other leaders; and

Whereas the members of the women's softball have brought great honor to themselves, their families, the University of Washington, and the State of Washington: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the University of Washington for winning the 2009 Women's College World Series;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and staff whose hard work and dedication helped the University of Washington win the championship; and

(3) respectfully requests the Clerk of the House to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to President of the University of Washington, Mark A. Emmert; the Director of Athletics of the University of Washington, Scott Woodward, and the Coach of the University of Washington softball team, Heather Tarr.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H.R. 517 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CHU. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today to congratulate the University of Washington softball team for their victory in the 2009 NCAA Division I tournament. On June 2, softball fans were treated to an exceptional game as the Washington Huskies defeated the