

done what is right. This is what National Adoption Day is all about.

I first got involved by helping families with their adoption proceedings as their attorney. I strongly believe that we have the ability and the opportunity to help encourage adoption and help those in the foster care system. That is why it is so important to recognize the families who make extraordinary efforts to welcome children into their family and highlight the importance of National Adoption Day and Month.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in support of this resolution supporting National Adoption Day and Month. I join in recognizing all of the children in foster care awaiting loving adoptive families as well as the many caring adults who have opened their hearts and homes to take in foster or adopted children.

During 2007 an estimated 783,000 children were served by the foster care system, with 494,000 children in care at the end of the year, including 12,236 in my home State of Georgia. In 2006 across the U.S., 50,941 adoptions were completed with public child welfare agency involvement. Significantly, the rate of adoption from foster care has increased from 5.5 percent in 1995 to 10 percent in 2006. That improvement has been driven by specific policies—including the landmark Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997—designed to increase the rate of adoption.

While that is welcome progress, there is more work to be done. Congress took additional steps last year with the passage of bipartisan legislation designed to promote more adoption, especially of children in foster care. As that law, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, is implemented, I look forward to reviewing the continued progress we will hopefully be making in improving the lives of children. When it comes to promoting more adoption instead of more foster care, we certainly have a solid track record to build on, and cause for optimism.

Beyond the legislation now in place, I call on Congress and the American people to continue working to improve educational opportunities for foster youth, as for all youth. Foster youth face particularly high hurdles in graduating from high school on time, or even at all. The reasons are many, including the multiple home placements that often cause young people in foster care to bounce not just from home to home but also from school to school. Overcoming these challenges is a key goal of last year's legislation, and one that will take the concerted efforts of many in the child welfare and education communities, in addition of course to the dedication of young people and their foster and adoptive parents. Giving each young person a solid chance of success in life starts with ensuring each and every student finishes at least high school and has the basic skills to find and keep a stable, well-paying job.

I urge all Members to support this resolution, and work with the many dedicated faith-based and other groups in their districts who promote adoption not only in November, but in every month of the year. We should all work toward the day when every child will be in a safe and loving permanent home, either with their own parents or, if they cannot adequately care for them, with loving adoptive parents.

Along the way, it is right to recognize both those who have already opened their hearts and homes to these special young people, as well as those who will do so in the future. They deserve our thanks and admiration for the tremendous commitment of love and devotion they show every day.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 831 to support the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month. This resolution seeks to promote awareness of adoption and the foster care system and remind all of us of the importance that adoption plays in the lives of countless Americans across the country.

Today there are nearly half a million children in foster care in the United States with roughly 130,000 waiting for families to adopt them. The awareness and encouragement that National Adoption Day and Month brings have helped numerous children find loving families. It is expected that 4,500 foster care children will be adopted this year on National Adoption Day which takes place on November 21.

Mr. Speaker, a loving family can have a life-long impact on a child, and it is important that we acknowledge the sacrifices and celebrate the importance that every party in the adoption process has. I encourage my colleagues to join me today in supporting House Resolution 831 so that we can continue to recognize the on-going efforts of America's adoptive families and their adopted sons and daughters.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 831.

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.

#### CELEBRATE SAFE COMMUNITIES WEEK AND CRIME PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 177) raising the awareness of the need for crime prevention in communities across the country and expressing support for designation of October 1, 2009, through October 3, 2009, as "Celebrate Safe Communities" Week, and October as "Crime Prevention Month".

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

##### H. CON. RES. 177

Whereas communities across the country face localized increases in violence and other crime;

Whereas local law enforcement-community partnerships are an effective tool for crime prevention and addressing the fear of crime;

Whereas the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) are leading national resources providing community safety and crime prevention tools tested and valued by

local law enforcement agencies and communities nationwide;

Whereas the NSA and the NCPC have joined together to create the "Celebrate Safe Communities" (CSC) initiative in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice;

Whereas in its premiere year, 153 communities in over 32 States and the District of Columbia participated in "Celebrate Safe Communities";

Whereas "Celebrate Safe Communities" will take place the first week of October 2009 to help kickoff recognition of October as "Crime Prevention Month";

Whereas "Crime Prevention Month" was established 25 years ago to encourage public education on being alert to criminal activity within their communities;

Whereas "Celebrate Safe Communities" is designated to help local communities highlight the importance of law enforcement-community partnerships to keep communities safe places to live, learn, work, and play;

Whereas "Celebrate Safe Communities" will enhance the public awareness of vital crime prevention and safety messages and motivate people in the United States of all ages to learn what they can do to stay safe from crime;

Whereas "Celebrate Safe Communities" will help promote year-round support for locally based and law enforcement-led community safety initiatives that help keep families, neighborhoods, schools, and businesses from crime;

Whereas the week of October 1, 2009, through October 3, 2009, would be an appropriate week to designate as "Celebrate Safe Communities" Week; and

Whereas the month of October is designated as "Crime Prevention Month": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—*

(1) supports the designation of "Celebrate Safe Communities" Week;

(2) supports "Crime Prevention Month";

(3) commends the efforts of the thousands of local law enforcement agencies and their countless community partners educating and engaging residents of all ages in the fight against crime;

(4) asks communities across the country to consider how "Celebrate Safe Communities" can help them highlight local successes in the fight against crime;

(5) encourages the National Sheriffs' Association and the National Crime Prevention Council to continue to promote through "Celebrate Safe Communities" and year-round, individual and collective action, in collaboration with law enforcement and other supporting local agencies, to reduce crime and build safer communities throughout the United States; and

(6) encourages government agencies, civic groups, schools, businesses, and youth organizations to educate the public, showcase their accomplishments, and explore new partnerships during "Crime Prevention Month".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COHEN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. COHEN. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution, H. Con. Res. 177, recognizes the importance of citizen and community involvement in an effort to prevent crime and express support for the designation of October 1 through October 3 as Crime Prevention Week and October as National Crime Prevention Month.

Celebrate Safe Communities is a relatively recent crime prevention initiative of the Justice Department in partnership with the National Sheriffs' Association and the National Crime Prevention Council.

The goal of this initiative is to strengthen the partnership between citizens and law enforcement. In Memphis, my hometown, Stevie Morris formed a group called FFUNN, which works with young people to prevent crime. There are neighborhood associations. Neighborhood Watch is an effective group that works in the community, and so are Crime Stoppers programs.

During the first week in October, communities throughout the country held events, educating the public about crime prevention and public safety programs. Not only do these events highlight crime prevention, but they encourage citizens to become personally involved in these programs. That's what the FFUNN group in Memphis and Stevie Moore did.

Similarly, during the month of October, communities and law enforcement organizations commemorate Crime Prevention Month, promoting awareness of important issues such as victimization, volunteerism, and creating safer, more caring communities. The monthlong celebration highlights successful crime prevention efforts at the local, State, and national levels, all of which are important in our communities.

I thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) for introducing this resolution. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) and the gentleman from Washington, Sheriff Reichert, for introducing this legislation.

H. Con. Res. 177, which is Celebrate Safe Communities Week, supports the designation of October 1, 2009, through October 3 as Celebrate Safe Communities Week and October as Crime Prevention Month. H. Con. Res. 177 also calls attention to the need for crime prevention in communities across the country.

In 1984, the National Crime Prevention Council established Crime Prevention Month to encourage public education on awareness and prevention of criminal activity within communities and neighborhoods. Every year since then, government agencies, volunteer groups, schools and businesses have reached out to the public to do just that.

In conjunction with the ninth National Crime Prevention Month, the National Sheriffs' Association and the National Crime Prevention Council, in partnership with the Department of Justice, they all came together to create the Celebrate Safe Communities initiative. In its very first year, the program recruited 153 communities in 32 States as well as the District of Columbia to participate in the weeklong event.

This year, from October 1 through October 3, Celebrate Safe Communities Week kicked off their recognition of October as Crime Prevention Month. Crime Prevention Month and Celebrate Safe Communities Week strive to enhance the public's awareness of local law enforcement-led community safe initiatives, thus motivating people in the United States to learn what they can do to stay safe from criminal conduct in their communities.

While Celebrate Safe Communities Week highlights the importance of citizens protecting themselves through crime prevention, initiatives also stress the importance of community participation with local law enforcement agencies after a crime has taken place.

□ 1245

Volunteer organizations have proven to be invaluable in their coordination with law enforcement officials and with other community leaders. After all, a partnership of those who have firsthand knowledge of their neighborhoods is, without a doubt, the most effective way of attacking crime head on.

This resolution reminds us that prevention is critical to the fight against crime in our society. This resolution also reminds us that crime is a local problem. There is no better time than Crime Prevention Month and Celebrate Safe Communities Week for citizens to start learning how they can take control in protecting their families and their communities.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 177.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CAO).

Mr. CAO. I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 177 to raise awareness of the need for crime prevention in communities across the country. The fight to reduce crime re-

mains a top issue for my constituents in the Second Congressional District. Unfortunately, New Orleans, like any other great city in this country, is struggling to fight the issue of violent crime, and this has been the case for 9 straight years.

Last month in New Orleans, an innocent 3-year-old girl was shot following a violent 11-hour stretch that saw 12 people shot and two people fatally wounded. Last week, an unsuspecting man was shot just two blocks away from a New Orleans school, and just this weekend, New Orleans was hit by a spate of eight armed robberies.

That is why we must work to require local and Federal law enforcement agencies to coordinate their efforts in cities like New Orleans. We should provide resources for drug and violent crime sweeps, funding for additional prosecutors, and we should help create a police and court system database to help track and prosecute criminals.

This resolution to designate October 1, 2009–October 3, 2009, as Celebrate Safe Communities Week and October as Crime Prevention Month will be an important step in fighting crime not only in my district but around the country.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join the national fight against crime and to support House Concurrent Resolution 177.

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he wishes to consume on this resolution to the author of the resolution, the gentleman from Washington, Sheriff Reichert.

Mr. REICHERT. I stand here today, Mr. Speaker, as a former sheriff. I also stand here today as a former member of the law enforcement community for 33 years. This is a new world for me, and it's a proud moment for me to be here to introduce this bill and to have the support that we have here today from both sides of the aisle.

I know from firsthand experience the challenges associated with our communities and with keeping them safe. The truth is that safety and security are the business of every citizen. We all have to work together to make this country safe, to make our communities safe, to keep our neighborhoods safe. We always have to remain vigilant, and we always have to watch out for our neighbors' homes and for our own homes to keep them safe. Together, we will raise awareness about crime prevention and about what we can do to keep our own homes safe and our entire communities safe.

So I am pleased today to support my resolution to designate the first week of October as Celebrate Safe Communities Week and recognize October as Crime Prevention Month.

I want to thank my colleagues from across the aisle—Mr. STUPAK from Michigan—for joining me in sponsoring this important effort.

Crime affects everyday decisions—where we go in public, where we travel,

what neighborhoods we visit, and where we might stop to shop for services or goods. Although the national crime rate has gone down in recent years, many cities and communities have actually seen a rise in crime rates over the past year or so. I've seen the devastation that even perceived crimes can cause and the harmful effects on our communities, especially for our children.

Children sometimes will feel threatened even going to school, and we've had to pass laws for school safety and school violence. It's a sad state of affairs today when we recognize that our children are sometimes not even safe on the school grounds or on the playgrounds of our schools across the country. Sometimes it causes them to even turn inward and to feel insecure and unsafe, and their schoolwork even suffers. They, themselves, may even turn to crime.

People of all ages and of all walks of life can be affected by crime. As we know, increases in crime can harm the economy. Residents can stay away from local businesses in certain neighborhoods because they might feel it's unsafe to shop there and to do business there.

Crime also affects the comfort and willingness of residents to work with law enforcement on community safety initiatives. Sometimes community policing efforts in working with a community will suffer if we don't all engage in ensuring our communities are safe. By engaging with communities in efforts such as Celebrate Safe Communities Week and Crime Prevention Month, connections to deter and to prevent violence can be made between members of law enforcement and their communities in order to serve and protect the public.

This initiative spotlights communities' crime prevention efforts; it enhances public awareness of violent crime prevention and safety messages; and it recruits year-round support for ongoing prevention activities that help keep neighborhoods safe from crime. Crime Prevention Month highlights the positive effects that prevention efforts have on a community through community efforts events, public service organizations, public service announcements, and other coordinated activities.

I am pleased that the House has chosen to recognize these important community efforts while respecting the work of our law enforcement officers in their responding without hesitation to every call that comes over the radio. We'd rather receive fewer calls and see less violence in our communities. It all starts with prevention.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, in Memphis, we've got many programs similar to these that have been discussed.

The Freedom from Unnecessary Negatives with Stevie Moore is in the community, often visited by our sheriff, Mark Luttrell, who was named National Sheriff of the Year, with District Attorney General Bill Gibbons and with others, who visit and have cook-outs, who talk about crime and who get the community oriented with their law enforcement officers—where they'll be wanting to report and work with the law enforcement officers. It has been a successful program.

Crime Stoppers is a successful program where people get rewarded for turning in criminals. They get rewarded with financial incentives.

The Neighborhood Watch programs are great programs where people work together to be aware of crime.

These are all important, and this is an important effort to fight against crime, and that's why I ask everybody to support this bill.

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 Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 177.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### FEDERAL JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2009

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3632) to provide improvements for the operations of the Federal courts, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3632

*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 "Federal Judiciary Administrative Improvements Act of 2009".

#### SEC. 2. SENIOR JUDGE GOVERNANCE CORRECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 631(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended in the first sentence by striking "(including any judge in regular active service" and all that follows through "was appointed)".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 3. REVISION OF STATUTORY DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 114 of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

##### "§ 114. North Dakota

"North Dakota constitutes one judicial district.

"Court shall be held at Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, and Minot."

(b) CURRENT CASES AND JURIES NOT AFFECTED.—

(1) PENDING CASES NOT AFFECTED.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall not affect any action commenced before the effective date under subsection (c) and pending in the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota on such date.

(2) JURIES NOT AFFECTED.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall not affect the composition, or preclude the service, of any grand or petit jury summoned, empaneled, or actually serving in the Judicial District of North Dakota on the effective date under subsection (c).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendment made by this section shall take effect 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 4. DISABILITY RETIREMENT AND COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS OF ANNUITIES FOR TERRITORIAL JUDGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 373 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

"(4) Any senior judge performing judicial duties pursuant to recall under paragraph (2) of this subsection shall be paid, while performing such duties, the same compensation (in lieu of the annuity payable under this section) and the same allowances for travel and other expenses as a judge on active duty with the court being served."

(2) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

"(e)(1) Any judge of the District Court of Guam, the District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the District Court of the Virgin Islands who is not reappointed (as judge of such court) shall be entitled, upon attaining the age of 65 years or upon relinquishing office if the judge is then beyond the age of 65 years—

"(A) if the judicial service of such judge, continuous or otherwise, aggregates 15 years or more, to receive during the remainder of the life of such judge an annuity equal to the salary received when the judge left office; or

"(B) if such judicial service, continuous or otherwise, aggregates less than 15 years, to receive during the remainder of the life of such judge an annuity equal to that proportion of such salary that the aggregate number of years of service of such judge bears to 15.

"(2) Any judge of the District Court of Guam, the District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the District Court of the Virgin Islands who has served at least 5 years, continuously or otherwise, and who retires or is removed upon the sole ground of mental or physical disability, shall be entitled to receive during the remainder of the life of such judge an annuity equal to 40 percent of the salary received when the judge left office or, in the case of a judge who has served at least 10 years, continuously or otherwise, an annuity equal to that proportion of such salary that the aggregate number of years of judicial service of such judge bears to 15"; and

(3) by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

"(g) Any retired judge who is entitled to receive an annuity under this section shall be paid a cost-of-living adjustment as provided under section 8340(b) of title 5, except that in no case may the annuity payable to such retired judge, as increased under this subsection, exceed the salary of a judge in regular active service with the court on which the retired judge served before retiring."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF RECALLED JUDGES.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(1) shall apply with respect to judicial duties pursuant to recall that are performed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.