

It has been nearly six months since this body overwhelmingly passed the legislation to authorize TSA's rail and mass transit security activities (H.R. 2200).

Unfortunately, to date, the Senate has failed to move on H.R. 2200.

The Senate also has yet to confirm a new TSA Assistant Secretary to fulfill the rail and mass transit security mandates that Congress overwhelmingly approved in 2007, with the passage of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act.

Plainly, there is still much to be done to secure rail and mass transit systems in the United States from bombings like the ones that occurred in Russia over the weekend, and other acts of terrorism.

In remembrance of those events, as well as the bombings of passenger rail and mass transit systems in Madrid, Spain; London, England; and Mumbai, India that occurred in recent years, H. Res. 28 instructs TSA to strengthen its efforts to secure rail and mass transit systems across the country and to build on existing programs that have shown promise.

This resolution recognizes TSA as being uniquely positioned to lead Federal efforts to secure rail and mass transit systems in the United States, and identifies the National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program as an effective and valuable resource.

House passage of both the 9/11 Act in 2007 and H.R. 2200 earlier this year by overwhelming majorities has emphasized the House of Representatives' commitment to strengthening security of rail and mass transit systems.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this resolution and reaffirming our strong commitment to strengthening the security of our rail and mass transit systems.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 28, which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) should increase and enhance its efforts to secure rail and mass transit systems in ways that are consistent with the 9/11 Act and H.R. 2200.

I would like to acknowledge Speaker PELOSI and Chairman THOMPSON for their leadership in bringing this important resolution to the floor. I would also like to thank my colleague Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, who authored this resolution recognizing TSA and its programs and urging the Administration to continue its efforts protecting the infrastructure of our Nation.

11,300,000 passengers depend on our Nation's mass transit lines as a means of transportation, and more than 25 million children depend on the school transportation system. My district, the 37th district of California, is a key transportation hub as well. Nearly 45 percent of all U.S. imports travel through the District. As such, it is critical that TSA shares our commitment to securing these systems.

H. Res. 28 recognizes TSA for leading Federal efforts to secure our Nation's rail and mass transit systems, the National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program as a valuable resource, and the successful Online Learning Center that ensures those responsible for securing against terrorist attacks on our transportation systems are highly trained. So I am happy to stand in support of H. Res. 28.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution because we cannot take the safety of our Nation's infrastructure for granted. We need to urge TSA to take all the action necessary to adequately protect our Nation and expand upon programs with a proven record of success, such as the Online Learning Center.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 28.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. With that, 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 Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 28, 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.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. 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.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE TRAINING RESTORATION ACT

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3963) to provide specialized training to Federal air marshals.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3963

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 "Criminal Investigative Training Restoration Act".

SEC. 2. FEDERAL AIR MARSHALS.

Section 44917 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE TRAINING PROGRAM.—

"(1) NEW EMPLOYEE TRAINING.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Criminal Investigative Training Restoration Act, the Federal Air Marshal Service shall require Federal air marshals hired after such date to complete the criminal investigative training program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center as part of basic training for Federal air marshals.

"(2) EXISTING EMPLOYEES.—A Federal air marshal who has previously completed the criminal investigative training program shall not be required to repeat such program.

"(3) ALTERNATIVE TRAINING.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Criminal Investigative Training Restoration Act, an air marshal hired before such date who has not completed the criminal investigative training program shall be required to complete a alternative training program, as determined by the Federal Law Enforcement Center, that provides the training necessary to bridge the gap between the mixed basic police training, the Federal air marshal programs already completed by the

Federal air marshal and the criminal investigative training provided through the criminal investigative training program. Any such alternative program shall be deemed to have met the standards of the criminal investigative training program.

"(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Not less than \$3,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011 to carry out this subsection.

"(5) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to reclassify Federal air marshals as criminal investigators."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill and yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I'm grateful to the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN), who I have worked with before, who's worked tirelessly on this issue. I'm honored to be a cosponsor of this important legislation, and I do applaud his work.

This legislation will help to bolster the effectiveness and morale of the Federal Air Marshal Service, many of whom I visited with over my tenure as a member of the Homeland Security Committee. In my position as chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection, I have promoted the need to keep our modes of transportation secure and to ensure that employees of the Department of Homeland Security have professional growth opportunities and are treated fairly and given the opportunity to exercise their concern and have this Congress and this executive listen to their concerns. This bill works towards both of these important objectives.

The Federal Air Marshal Service had to quickly expand its size and efforts in the wake of attacks on September 11, 2001. This bill helps to restore more training measures in a way that is consistent with that necessary expansion. In addition, this legislation provides for potential promotion opportunities.

I would like to note that this provision was offered and rejected during the markup of H.R. 2200, the TSA authorization bill that I wrote earlier and which passed the House in a bipartisan manner. At that time I did not feel as though it contained the necessary language to ensure that it would not adversely impact the salaries and benefits of Federal air marshals. Working

with the gentleman from California, as we have promised, we were able to agree on language that eliminates my concern. I thank the gentleman for his cooperation and collaboration for a very important step forward. Accordingly, I'm confident that Federal air marshals will not—and cannot—be wrongly classified as “criminal investigators.”

Taken as a whole, this bill demonstrates a commitment to the Federal air marshals who help to keep us safe. This is a well-balanced bill that will improve the security of the traveling public.

I look forward to the bipartisan passage of H.R. 3963 and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank the gentlelady for her gracious comments and her support of this bill. I rise in support of H.R. 3963, the Federal Air Marshals Criminal Investigative Training Restoration Act, a bill that I have authored.

Prior to 9/11, the criminal investigative training program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center was an essential part of the training that we have for our Federal air marshals, commonly referred to as FAMS. The events of 9/11, however, necessitated an emergency situation in which we were required to rapidly hire, train, and deploy thousands of new FAMS.

In order to meet these ambitious deployment mandates, the newly hired members of this corps, without prior Federal law enforcement experience, were not required to take the criminal investigative training program. It was not because we did not wish them to have it, but that would have delayed their deployment, and we were under an emergency situation. We realized that additional Federal air marshals were essential to the overall response to the threat we then knew to be real.

It has always been the intent of the Federal Air Marshal Service, however, to resume using the criminal investigative training program as part of the basic training for FAMS. This bill will restore the criminal investigative training program as part of the basic training for the members of this organization.

Crucial to the mission of the Federal air marshals is the ability to detect, deter, and prevent terrorists or other criminal hostile acts targeting our U.S. air carriers, airports, passengers, crew, or other transportation modes. Currently, the FAMS are required to take a mixed basic police training program and a FAMS-specific course at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, known as FLETC. Restoring the criminal investigative training will provide FAMS with the additional knowledge and skills required to resolve situations on the ground as well as respond to situations in-flight.

The additional training—it is 12 weeks long—includes law enforcement

interview, interrogation, and behavioral assessment skills and techniques. It will, undoubtedly, provide our Federal air marshals with improved law enforcement skills not only to fly missions, but to perform the enhanced roles with our visual intermodal protection and response teams—that is our VIPR teams—and other ground-based law enforcement. It therefore enhances the FAMS' layer of security.

Detection is the principle tool utilized by the VIPR teams to disrupt terrorist operations, and these investigative techniques are not currently taught to our Federal air marshals. It also provides the Department of Homeland Security Secretary and the TSA administrator a highly trained, agile, and motivated workforce capable of meeting the security challenges facing not only our transportation sector, but also the homeland itself.

Now, Mr. Speaker, our Federal air marshals have expressed a strong desire for advancement opportunities within the Service and the opportunity to gain greater investigative experience. This legislation affords these opportunities and is an important step in improving operations at the Federal Air Marshal Service. Restoring the criminal investigative training to the Federal Air Marshal Service would also improve morale tremendously. These are trained individuals who seek to be recognized as essential members of our overall law enforcement communities. This will give them the kind of training that will assist them not only in their job, but should they pursue other lines of employment in the world of law enforcement. This will provide them with the background which will assist in that.

The Federal Air Marshal Service supports the restoration of criminal investigative training to their membership. The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association also supports it. However, I want to emphasize this bill does not in any way reclassify the Federal air marshals as criminal investigators, known as series 1811 employees. The bill therefore before us states expressly that nothing in the bill would be construed as reclassifying FAMS as criminal investigators. That should clear up any question of a budgetary nature with respect to this bill.

I would ask for House bipartisan support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at this time I have no further speakers. I would inquire whether the gentleman is prepared to close.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I am prepared to close, as I have no further speakers. I thank the gentlelady for her support on this. I thank both sides of the aisle, both staff and members of the committee. This is a commonsense approach. It's the kind of thing that we ought to be working on together—we have worked on together here—and I hope it will pass unanimously.

With that, I would yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me first of all thank my good friend, Mr. LUNGREN, again, for his cooperation in this effort. I'd like to reemphasize points that he has made that should be reemphasized.

One, we are gratified that we have Federal U.S. Air Marshals, and we thank them for their service. They are peace officers, as we use that terminology in Texas. They are law enforcement officers. We're gratified for that expertise. This legislation will help them add to their portfolio in training on investigation, because there is not a single action that may occur that would require their service that does not require us to have the details and the information in order to bring individuals to justice. This is important.

Might I just add that Federal air marshals have risen to the call of duty. Federal air marshals came to New Orleans, Louisiana, during Hurricane Katrina. Federal air marshals have been called upon in time of disaster, and they have answered the call.

So I think it is important to note as we stand on the floor of the House to present this legislation to enhance their training that we appreciate their service. We thank them for the sacrifice of their families as they travel internationally on behalf of the American people.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3963, the “Criminal Investigative Training Restoration Act,” which has the potential of bolstering the effectiveness and morale of the Federal Air Marshal Service.

Specifically, this is a bipartisan bill adds the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's criminal investigative training program to the basic training required for Federal Air Marshals.

H.R. 3963 directs the Federal Air Marshal Service to provide criminal investigative training to all newly hired FAMS within 30 days of enactment.

The bill creates a three-year window for all current FAMS to be provided this additional training.

This training was provide to FAMS prior to 2001 but was halted to allow the Federal Air Marshal Service to swiftly ramp up its workforce in response to the September 11th attacks.

Unfortunately, in the eight years since 9/11, the Transportation Security Administration has not moved forward to restore this training.

I have heard that there were some concerns that there was a risk that FAMS, by virtue of taking this course, would be reclassified as “criminal investigators.”

The legislation addresses this concern head-on by clearly stating that this such a reclassification will not occur, thereby also ensuring that the pay FAMS receive is not adversely affected.

I thank the gentleman from California, Mr. LUNGREN, for introducing this legislation and working of my colleagues to include this important provision.

I urge passage of this bipartisan bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I would ask my colleagues to support this very important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3963.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES OF SLAIN WASHINGTON OFFICERS

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 939) extending condolences to the families of Sergeant Mark Renninger, Officer Tina Griswold, Officer Ronald Owens, and Officer Greg Richards.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 939

Whereas, on the morning of November 29, 2009, 4 members of the Lakewood Police Department were slain by gunfire in a senseless act of violence while preparing for their shift in Lakewood, Washington;

Whereas the 4 officers have been members of the Lakewood Police Department since its founding 5 years ago, were valuable members of the community, and were deeply respected for their service;

Whereas Sergeant Mark Renninger who served 13 years in law enforcement, first with the Tukwila Police Department and most recently, served with the Lakewood Police Department, is survived by his wife and 3 children;

Whereas Officer Tina Griswold who served 14 years in law enforcement, first with the Lacey Police Department and most recently, served with the Lakewood Police Department, is survived by her husband and 2 children;

Whereas Officer Ronald Owens who served 12 years in law enforcement, first with the Washington State Patrol and most recently, served with the Lakewood Police Department, is survived by his daughter;

Whereas Officer Greg Richards who served 8 years in law enforcement, first with the Kent Police Department and most recently, served with the Lakewood Police Department, is survived by his wife and 3 children;

Whereas the senseless violence against and murder of law enforcement officers, who are sworn to serve, protect, and preserve the peace of the communities, is a particularly heinous crime; and

Whereas in the face of this senseless tragedy, the people of the City of Lakewood, the surrounding communities, and the State of Washington have come together in support of the law enforcement community and the victims' families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) extends its condolences to the families of Sergeant Mark Renninger, Officer Tina Griswold, Officer Ronald Owens, and Officer Greg Richards; and

(2) stands with the people of Lakewood, Washington, the men and women of the Lakewood Police Department, and members of the law enforcement community as they celebrate the lives and mourn the loss of these four dedicated public servants and law enforcement heroes.

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 may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous matter on the bill 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 such time as I may consume.

This resolution extends condolences to the families of four Lakewood, Washington, police officers, Sergeant Mark Renninger, Officer Tina Griswold, Officer Ronald Owens, and Officer Greg Richards, who were senselessly slain by gunfire in the line of duty on Sunday, November 29, 2009. These brave and honorable Lakewood Police Department officers were ambushed as they sat in a local coffee shop, catching up on paperwork at the beginning of their Sunday morning shift.

By way of this resolution, the House of Representatives honors the lives and mourns the loss of these Lakewood police officers. We join the city of Lakewood and the entire State of Washington in celebrating the lives and grieving the deaths of these police officers.

Sergeant Mark Renninger was described as a "tough guy" who excelled at his job and was regarded as a leader and teacher in the close-knit Lakewood police force. He was married with three children.

Officer Tina Griswold liked to cook, ride her dirt bike, and was a certified diver. Her father is a retired police officer. She began working in law enforcement as a dispatcher and came to Lakewood 5 years ago as an officer. She leaves behind a 21-year-old daughter and a 7-year-old son.

Officer Ronald Owens, known to friends and family as Ronnie, was described as having a fun-loving personality and as someone who made everyone around him feel positive. Officer Owens leaves behind a daughter.

Officer Greg Richards enjoyed music in his spare time, playing drums in a rock band. He liked nothing better than spending time with his wife, Kelly, and his three children.

By passing this resolution, we want the families of these police officers to know that they are not alone in mourning the loss of the Lakewood officers. My first job, Mr. Speaker, was as an attorney for the police depart-

ment. I served 3½ years as an attorney for the Memphis Police Department, and I relate to the loss that the department and this Nation have suffered.

I urge all my colleagues to support this important resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

First of all, I want to thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) for sponsoring this important legislation, and I rise in support of House Resolution 939. This resolution extends our condolences to the families of Sergeant Mark Renninger, Officer Tina Griswold, Officer Ronald Owens, and Officer Greg Richards. These four police officers were members of the Lakewood, Washington, police department and were ambushed by gunfire in a murderous act of violence on November 29, 2009.

These four officers were in uniform and sitting at a table in a coffee shop near their patrol area. They were preparing for their upcoming shift when a gunman with an extensive criminal record who was out on bond for another criminal offense entered the location and suddenly fired gunshots at these officers. Two of the officers were killed immediately, another was shot when he stood up from the table, and the fourth was shot after struggling with the gunman in attempting to prevent his escape. The gunman fled but not before one of the wounded dying officers had shot him.

The gunman was found 2 days later in Seattle after he challenged yet another police officer who approached him. That police officer was a 7-year veteran of the Seattle police force who noticed a parked, stolen car that was running but unoccupied. The officer approached the suspect outside the car and asked him to show his hands, but the suspect refused and started to run around the car. The officer shot and killed the suspect to prevent his escape. The officer had recognized the gunman from photographs and identified him as the main suspect in the murders of these other officers. The gunman was carrying a service weapon taken from one of the slain officers that he had murdered.

Unfortunately, police officers and law enforcement officials sometimes go unnoticed and unappreciated by communities that they protect. So far in 2009, 111 American police officers have lost their lives in the line of duty, protecting the rest of us. These noble men and women deserve respect and gratitude from our entire Nation. Peace officers, like Sergeant Renninger, Officer Griswold, Officer Owens, and Officer Richards perform their jobs every day with the knowledge that there is a possibility that they may give their lives in service to the communities that they protect. That's an awesome sacrifice, Mr. Speaker.

As a Nation, we are grateful to peace officers who readily accept such a tremendous burden and to their families