

proceedings are only used as a last resort after exhausting all other options to save a home.

Myth: This bill is another bailout for the banks and will cost taxpayers tens of billions.

Fact: H.R. 1106 actually redirects existing TARP funds from the banks to homeowners. It also will make sure the TARP funds are spent on economic recovery and neighborhood stabilization rather than salted away in some bank vault or paid to bank shareholders as dividends. This bill does exactly what the American people have asked for; it helps homeowners rather than banks and big business.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1106 is not a perfect bill, but it is one more piece in the mosaic of positive efforts we are making to turn our economy around. It is good for homeowners. It is good for the future stability of our neighborhoods. It is good for our nation's economy.

That is why I ask my colleagues to join me later today in supporting H.R. 1106.

WHERE IS THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ON SUDAN?

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Sudan's President Bashir, charging him with seven counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. This is the first time the court has accused a sitting head of state of war crimes.

The world knows what's happening in Sudan and Darfur, and yet the Obama administration has failed to appoint a special envoy. I have asked him to appoint a former Senator, Bill Frist from Tennessee, who can start today. The tribunal spokesman said the crimes included, and I quote, "murdering, exterminating, raping, torturing and forcibly transferring large numbers of civilians and the pillaging of their property."

According to the U.N., an estimated 300,000 have been killed since the Darfur conflict began and 2.7 million displaced. And yet the Obama administration has failed to appoint a special envoy. As recently as just yesterday, the AP reported that in recent weeks 26,000 people have fled their homes in Darfur and flooded Zamzam refugee camps, already at 50,000.

I close by saying time is short. The killing and the devastation goes on. The administration must act. This cannot wait.

INNOVATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN A HALLMARK OF AMERICAN SUCCESS

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

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, innovation has always been a hallmark of American success. Innovation will transform the way we generate and store power

from renewable resources, use electricity more efficiently, and create a workforce for the 21st century.

President Obama's budget promotes the development of innovative clean energy technology, modernizes the electric grid, and provides the capital to double renewable energy generating capacity. With these investments we will change the way our country generates, uses and delivers energy. We will produce jobs throughout the United States and begin to end our dependence on foreign oil.

America's prosperity depends on bold action and investments in research and development, on our ability to adapt through innovation and on creating green jobs that will build a foundation for a clean energy economy.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

RECOGNIZING BEVERLY ECKERT FOR 9/11 VICTIMS WORK

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 201) recognizing Beverly Eckert's service to the Nation and particularly to the survivors and families of the September 11, 2001, attacks.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 201

Whereas on the morning of September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked and destroyed four civilian aircraft, crashing two of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and a third into the Pentagon outside Washington, DC;

Whereas the passengers and crew aboard United Flight 93 acted heroically to prevent the terrorist hijackers from taking additional American lives, by crashing the plane in Shanksville, Pennsylvania and sacrificing their own lives instead;

Whereas thousands of innocent men, women, and children were brutally murdered in the attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas pursuant to Public Law 107-306, the 9/11 Commission was formed to ascertain, evaluate, and report on the evidence regarding the terrorist attacks;

Whereas the 9/11 Commission was also required in Public Law 107-306 to make a full and complete accounting of the circumstances surrounding the terrorist attacks, report on the United States' preparedness for, and immediate response to, terrorist attacks, and make findings, conclusions, and recommendations for corrective measures that could be taken to prevent, prepare, and respond to acts of terrorism;

Whereas the 9/11 Commission stated in its report that it "interviewed more than 1,200

individuals" to assist in making its recommendations;

Whereas one of the groups representing the victims, "Voices of September 11", testified before the 9/11 Commission;

Whereas Beverly Eckert was the widow of Mr. Sean Rooney, who died in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and following her husband's death, Beverly Eckert co-founded "Voices of September 11", an advocacy group for survivors and 9/11 families;

Whereas Beverly Eckert was instrumental in the development and growth of this important advocacy group, which now claims more than 5,500 members;

Whereas Beverly Eckert worked admirably with the 110th Congress and was a key proponent in the final passage of the "Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007" as the legislation to effectuate the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to prevent, prepare, and respond to acts of terrorism; and

Whereas the United States will forever be grateful for the services of Beverly Eckert and mourn her loss: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) acknowledges Beverly Eckert's service to the Nation and particularly to the survivors and families of the September 11, 2001, attacks;

(2) recognizes Beverly Eckert's work to help bring about implementation of the 9/11 Commission recommendations to prepare, prevent, and respond to acts of terrorism; and

(3) extends its deepest condolences to the family of Beverly Eckert and the families of all those who lost their lives due to the crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 201, which recognizes Beverly Eckert's service to the United States of America, particularly the survivors and the families of the attack on September 11, 2001.

Ms. Eckert was the widow of Mr. Sean Rooney, who was killed in the World Trade Center on September 11. For many, the devastating loss of a partner, of a husband, would lead to a state of grief, anger, fear, paralysis.

But Beverly Eckert turned the September 11 attacks into a clarion call of government accountability and transparency, Mr. Speaker. When there were questions about what led to the attacks, Beverly Eckert demanded answers.

When some tried to dismiss her call for answers, she pressed on and co-founded the “Voices of September 11,” an advocacy group for survivors which now claims more than 5,500 members.

This led to the creation of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States—or the 9/11 Commission—and we all remember that commission led by former Congressman Lee Hamilton and, of course, Governor Tom Kean of New Jersey. Beverly Eckert did not stop there. She attended the 9/11 Commission hearings and was there when the 9/11 Commission published its findings and recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, I want to allow, because of time factors with some of the Members, two young ladies who are Members of this great body, who are always there first to recognize and sensitive to those people, the real heroes of America.

I yield 2 minutes first to Ms. SLAUGHTER from the State of New York.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I thank both gentlemen for the time.

As a New Yorker, obviously the events of September 11, 2001, are really seared in our memory, as I am sure they are in the memory of all Americans.

On February 12, this year, 2009, the Nation was shocked and saddened by the devastating plane accident in Clarence, New York, a few miles outside of Buffalo. Our thoughts and prayers will always be with the family and friends who lost loved ones on Continental Connection Flight 3407.

Today, we are here to recognize one of the persons on that plane, Beverly Eckert, who also lost her life on that day. We thank her for her tremendous service to our Nation and particularly to the survivors and families of the September 11, 2001, attacks.

Mr. Speaker, Beverly Eckert, as mentioned, was the widow of Sean Rooney, who died in the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and had been among the most visible faces of the victims' families in the aftermath of the attacks. Following her husband's death, she cofounded Voices of September 11, one of the first advocacy groups for the survivors of 9/11 and families.

Beverly was instrumental in the development and growth of this important group, which is now supported by more than 5,500 members. Along with other members of the Voices of September 11, she testified before the 9/11 Commission to help report on the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Beverly worked with the 110th Congress tirelessly, and she was a key proponent in enacting the 9/11 Commission's recommendations to prevent, prepare and respond to acts of terrorism. Simply put, Beverly's work helped to make our Nation safer and more secure.

Beverly was a passenger on Flight 3407 on her way to Buffalo to mark what would have been her husband's

birthday and launch a scholarship in his memory. We lost an inspiring and tenacious champion in Beverly, and we must continue to honor her memory and accomplishments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PASCRELL. I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. We must continue to honor her memory and accomplishments while carrying on her mission. Today we consider a resolution to acknowledge her service on behalf of the survivors and to recognize her work to help protect our Nation.

The resolution also extends condolences to the families of all those who were lost on the Continental Connection flight.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution to honor the life of Beverly Eckert, commemorating her valuable service to the 9/11 survivors and families in this country.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring Ms. Beverly Eckert.

Ms. Eckert lost her husband, Sean Rooney, on September 11, 2001. Since then, Ms. Eckert has been a tireless advocate for the families and survivors of these September 11 attacks. She is the cofounder of the nonprofit foundation Voices of September 11, which currently has more than 5,500 members.

Ms. Eckert lobbied for the establishment of the 9/11 Commission, passage of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, establishment of the WMD Commission, and the development of a memorial to the victims of the September 11 attacks at Ground Zero.

Ms. Eckert was a passenger on Continental Flight 3407, which crashed on February 12, 2009, near Buffalo, New York. Ms. Eckert, who grew up in Buffalo, was returning to her hometown to honor her husband on his 58th birthday and establish a scholarship in his name.

Ms. Eckert is survived by her three sisters, seven nephews and her one niece. My heart goes out to her family and friends. I hope they can take comfort in the fact that Ms. Eckert has been reunited with her husband.

I honor Ms. Eckert and all those who lost their lives as a result of the tragic crash of Continental Flight 3407.

I urge Members to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

□ 1315

Mrs. MALONEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his constant leadership and support for the 9/11 families and for the reforms to make our country safer and to my good friend and colleague LOUISE SLAUGHTER, who authored this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution honoring Beverly Eckert, who died in a plane crash in Buffalo going to honor the memory of her husband on his 58th birthday.

She told me the last time she spoke to him, he was in the burning towers and the fire was coming towards him. She was devoted to him. It broke her heart. But it did not break her spirit. She dedicated her life to making sure that other families did not suffer the same type of loss that she did by not protecting our citizens, by putting in place strong homeland security laws.

As the co-Chair of the 9/11 Family Steering Committee, and I was the founder and Chair of the 9/11 Commission Caucus, we worked almost daily, first to support the creation of the 9/11 Commission; then to fund it, to give it subpoena power, to give it time to do its work. And when they came back with a report that had 47 recommendations to make Americans safer, she then dedicated her life to implementing them into law. I was one of the authors of the first bill that reorganized our intelligence, the first major intelligence reorganization since 1948, to share information so that we could better prevent another attack. And then H.R. 1, which rolled all the other recommendations to make America safer into the bill, H.R. 1, the first bill that the Democratic leadership passed in the last Congress, this passed with Beverly's leadership and support.

She worked out of my office for 4 years. She would lead vigils in front of the White House. She was at 9/11 constantly raising the need and the importance to pass this important legislation. She was a spirit. She was a leader. She was one of the finest people I have ever met. And many, many people owe a great deal of gratitude for a safer America because of her work.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

Instead of letting leaders in Washington pat themselves on the back for the 9/11 Commission, which we are apt to do, Beverly Eckert insisted on the implementation of the Commission's recommendations. When Ms. Eckert was told that the recommendations would be difficult to implement, she was not deterred. Where she saw there were problems, she demanded and worked tirelessly for solutions. She traveled to Washington and pushed for the passage of the implementation of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act, as Mrs. MALONEY and Ms. SLAUGHTER pointed out.

To sum up, Beverly Eckert was a tenacious citizen who nudged and prodded the leaders of this Nation to look at their mistakes and implement the steps to correct them. Ms. Eckert was not interested in partisanship, fear-mongering or saber rattling. Beverly

Eckert was a woman who made sure that the death of her husband and those who died on September 11 would not be in vain. In that process she taught us all why we should not give into the fear of terrorism.

I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution honoring, Beverly Eckert, a great American. As a 9/11 widow, Beverly Eckert rose above a daunting challenge. America has asked her to not only overcome her grief over losing her husband, but to take on a leading role as a advocate for other victims.

Beverly Eckert, who died on February 12 in the crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407 in Clarence Center, N.Y., was co-founder of Voices of September 11, a group representing the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Her husband, Sean Rooney, died in the World Trade Center. Under Eckert's leadership, Voices of September 11 grew into an influential advocacy group of more than 5,500 members. Eckert supported the work of the 9/11 Commission and urged Congress to adopt its recommendations. Less than a week before her death, she met with President Barack Obama at the White House with other terrorist victims' families to discuss changes in the government's handling of terror suspects.

As a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and the Chair of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure I am well aware of the importance of keeping the memory of September 11, 2001 at the forefront of our conscious.

This resolution honors Beverly Eckert for her service on behalf of September 11 victims and their families and recognizes her work to bring about the implementation of the 9/11 Commission recommendations to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism. It extends condolences to Eckert's family and the families of all those who lost their lives in the Continental Connection Flight 3407 crash.

Certainly the irony of Beverly Eckert dying in a plane crash that appears to be weather-related is not lost on us. That does not diminish the breadth of her work over the last eight years. It is fitting that Beverly was greeted at the White House by President Obama just a week before she perished.

It is my hope Mr. Speaker that we continue to honor Beverly Eckert and the other victims of Continental Connection Flight 3407 and the terrorist attacks of 9/11 by energizing our pursuit of the terrorists who hurt our nation. We can do this by bringing to justice the perpetrators of those attacks and the forces behind them.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the opportunity to speak to our nation at this poignant time but also a moment where we can be reminded of the arduous task that this new administration faces in pursuit of terrorists and seeking to raise our profile as a nation of peace. We can be a leader in the fight against terrorism and still saving the world. We can only hope that Sean Rooney and Beverly are reunited in heaven.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a constituent and citizen activist, Beverly Eckert who lost her life in the tragic crash of flight 3407 just a few weeks ago.

In addition to being a beloved sister, aunt, and friend, Beverly, who lost her husband in

the September 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, was an impressive activist and will be missed, both for her outspoken work on behalf of 9/11 victims and by those who knew and love her.

After her husband died on September 11th, Beverly co-founded Voices of September 11, a group that serves those affected by the attacks and advocates for effective response to terrorism.

In the days, weeks and years after the 9/11 attacks, Beverly was a tireless advocate for the victims' families. She spearheaded protests that led politicians to set aside more land for a memorial at Ground Zero, fought to ensure federal authorities would thoroughly probe the cause of the twin towers' collapse, and spoke eloquently again and again about her husband, Sean Rooney, and the many others who died that day.

As a member of the Family Steering Committee, a group of relatives of victims of 9/11, Eckert helped to spearhead the public fight for a 9/11 Commission to investigate the attacks.

Throughout the years, Beverly remained active in the fight against terrorism. This winter she met with President Obama at the White House along with other relatives of those killed on 9/11 and in the bombing of the USS *Cole* to discuss how the new administration would handle terror suspects.

Beverly's activism should remind all of us what the actions of one person can do. While she did not work alone, we all have her to thank for making us safer today. Her patriotism should be admired and her citizenship should serve as a model for us all.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 201.

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. PASCRELL. 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.

RECOGNIZING THE HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT ON ITS SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 195) recognizing and honoring the employees of the Department of Homeland Security on its sixth anniversary for their continuous efforts to keep the Nation safe.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 195

Whereas the Department of Homeland Security was created as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, to consolidate

our Nation's efforts to prevent, prepare for, protect against, respond to, and mitigate against threats to the homeland, including acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and other emergencies;

Whereas the Department of Homeland Security marks its sixth year of full-scale operations on March 1, 2009;

Whereas more than 223,000 employees of the Department of Homeland Security work diligently to deter, detect, and prevent acts of terrorism and stand ready to respond to a terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other emergency;

Whereas the employees of the Department of Homeland Security are dedicated individuals who rarely receive the recognition they deserve;

Whereas the employees of the Department of Homeland Security work tirelessly to protect our Nation, frequently working long hours and sacrificing time with their loved ones;

Whereas the employees of the Department of Homeland Security support the Department's mission to secure the borders, protect critical infrastructure, share information, facilitate safe and lawful travel and trade, and work with States and localities to enhance preparedness;

Whereas the employees of the Department of Homeland Security deserve the best in training and resources to accomplish their vital mission;

Whereas the United States has not been attacked since September 11, 2001, and this is due in large part to the dedicated service of the employees of the Department of Homeland Security; and

Whereas the Nation owes a debt of gratitude to the employees of the Department of Homeland Security for their continued and steadfast efforts to secure the homeland: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and honors the employees of the Department of Homeland Security on its sixth anniversary for their continuous efforts to keep the Nation safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support House Resolution 195, a measure to honor the employees of the Department of Homeland Security and to mark the sixth anniversary of the Department's creation.

The Department of Homeland Security was tasked with the Herculean responsibility of coordinating with State, local, and tribal entities to prevent future terrorist attacks, secure our borders, and to prepare for and respond to events of national significance. Comprised of 22 different Federal agencies