

by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). The act would convey a parcel of land held by the Bureau of Prisons to the Miami Dade College, which is adjacent to the Bureau of Prisons facility. The parcel of land is now used as a parking lot by the Bureau of Prisons facility.

As a result of this act, the college will be permitted to use the parcel as a site for the new building that will include a garage parking area. That parking area will contain 118 secured parking spaces that will be designated for use by the Bureau of Prisons.

This conveyance outlined in this bill will benefit both the Bureau of Prisons and the Miami Dade College. The Department of Justice has reviewed the bill, and does not oppose its enactment. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 838.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to see that the Miami Dade College Land Conveyance Act is before the House today. This is a great example of Federal-local partnerships truly benefiting both Miami Dade College and the Bureau of Prisons. This bill will facilitate the construction of a new educational facility in downtown Miami as well as provide secured parking for the Bureau of Prisons.

Miami Dade College has been an essential institution in South Florida for over half a century. It was born of the idea that anyone with a desire to get a college degree should be given that opportunity.

By 1967, the college was the largest institution of higher education in our great State of Florida. Today, it has built upon that position, and is now the largest institution of higher education in the United States, serving over 160,000 students last year, all the while maintaining an affordable and exceptional course of study.

Miami Dade College has been instrumental in the development and success of thousands of students, and I am proud to say that my father, my brother and I are all graduates of this fine institution. It serves our community with fine distinction. In fact, 96 percent of the students enrolled at Miami Dade College are residents from our local area. Just 2 years ago, the college reached a truly incredible milestone. It welcomed its 1.5 millionth student. We are only a community of 2.3 million, so the sheer amount of lives that the college has influenced is astonishing.

When I say that Miami Dade College is central to the educational, social and cultural fabric of South Florida, know that this is no exaggeration. The college also embodies the essence of diversity. Almost 80 percent of its students come from a minority background. It enrolls more minorities than

any other college or university in the United States, and in Florida, 33 percent of all minority students attending community colleges are attending Miami Dade College.

This bill will allow for the much needed expansion of the facilities in downtown Miami, and it will allow the college to offer more courses to more students. All this has been made possible by the stellar performance, leadership and guidance of the college president, Dr. Eduardo J. Padron, himself an alum of Miami Dade College. He is a man of unyielding strength and a passion for education. He has spent his entire career making sure that all students have the tools and the opportunities to succeed. His time at Miami Dade College has been defined by growth and greater academic accreditation. He has truly made a positive difference in the lives of countless individuals, and I commend him for all that he continues to do in support of our college.

I thank the Speaker; I thank the Members who have given me this opportunity, and I urge all Members to vote in favor of this legislation, supporting a fine institution of higher learning and the many wonderful students who will benefit from this expansion.

I thank the gentleman for his time, and I thank my good friend from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) for her time as well.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me congratulate the gentlewoman for not only providing this facilitation for this institution of higher learning but for helping out the Bureau of Prisons, which is the Judiciary Committee's jurisdiction.

As I close, let me just acknowledge the legislation, H. Res. 290, that Congresswoman BARBARA LEE offered today and add my sympathy to the people of California. I thank Congresswoman LEE for bringing forward legislation that honors the lives that were lost—Sergeant Mark Dunakin, Sergeant Ervin Romans, Sergeant Daniel Sakai, and Officer John Hege, who were members of the Oakland Police Department in California.

In the month of May, we will be honoring law enforcement officers who have fallen across America. We have done that every year since I have been in the United States Congress. Tragically and sadly, we will do it again, even honoring those who have come from Texas and Houston. So H. Res. 290 has my sympathy as well. Before I closed, I wanted to acknowledge that.

Let me now close on this legislation, H.R. 838, and indicate my support and ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

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. 838, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy:

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Maryland
Mr. CUMMINGS, Maryland
Mr. KLINE, Minnesota
Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, New Jersey

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow and for the rest of the week, this body will engage in a very important, principled debate that really responds to the calamity that we have been facing over the last 6 to 8 months, and that is the economic crisis.

The administration has put forward its initiative that addresses the principles of a budget. This Congress, along with several caucuses, has offered budgets to be able to address the pain of the American people.

What I am so proud of and the reason I am standing here today is that Democrats have come together around principles that will help to heal the economy: the infusion of dollars into education, into health care, a continued commitment to energy reform, and the review of energy opportunities across, if you will, the spectrum of resources. Certainly, we recognize the needs of our veterans and of our soldiers across the land.

I hope we will have a vigorous debate on behalf of the American people.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE LIFE, SERVICE AND HEROISM OF ARMY SERGEANT SCOTT B. STREAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, while recent weeks have brought about serious challenges here at home, we must not allow them to distract our thoughts and prayers from the brave men and women fighting the war on terrorism around the world. These men and women are proudly serving our country, and are facing challenges far greater than most of us could ever imagine.

I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Scott B. Stream, 39. Sergeant Stream was killed on February 24, 2009, in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

I had the honor of attending the funeral for Sergeant Stream. As I walked in, they handed me a program of events for the funeral. Inside was an insert of an e-mail that Sergeant Stream had sent home to his family on December 31, 2008.

As I sat there, waiting for the funeral to begin, I read it over and over, and I decided that I needed to share this with our grateful Nation because it says a lot about Sergeant Stream. Also, I think it says a lot about the men and women we have serving us overseas. I would like to read this e-mail and enter it into the RECORD.

This is Sergeant Stream's e-mail:

"When I think about what surrounds me—the institutional corruption, the random violence, the fear and desperation—I feel the reasons why I'm here more and more sharply.

"As we grow in our soldier skills, surviving by finding the hidden dangers, seeing the secret motives in the shifting politics, we grow a set of skills that is unique and powerful in this situation.

"We also see what you cannot see in the States. You are surrounded by the love of Christ and faith in freedom and humanity. Like a fish, you think water is a 'puff of air' because it is always there. You do not notice it. We who are out of water look back and see the world we love surrounded by enemies, poison and envy, that wants to fall on you like a storm of ruin. We who joined with vague notions of protecting our country see how desperate the peril, how hungry the enemy and how frail the security we have for you.

"The more I love and long for home the more right I feel here on the front lines standing between you and the seething madness that wants to suck the life and love out of our land. Does that mean I cannot go home? I hope not, because I want this just to be the postponement of the joy of life, not the sacrifice of mine. If it costs me my life to protect our land and people then that is a small thing. I just hope that fate lets me return to the promised land and remind people just how great our land is.

"War is a young man's game, and I am getting an old man's head. It's a strange thing. I just hope that I am not changed so that I cannot take joy in the land inside the wire when I make it home. I want to be with you all again

and let my gun sit in the rack and float on my back in a tube down a lazy river."

Sergeant Stream didn't make it home, but he left behind a family. And I would like to read their names and let him know that we're all praying for him: His wife Rasa, his daughters Megan and Laura, his parents Sherman and Gayle Stream, his siblings and their mates, Shawn and Michelle Stream, and Shannon and Michael Pape and his grandmother Vera.

When I read that e-mail, it so reminded me of the dedication and the love that these young men and women had for this country. Their willingness to fight, their willingness to sacrifice. And what struck me the most he says, "If this cost me my life, that is a small gift." That is someone of maturity. That is someone of patriotism. And that is a hero.

□ 1830

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ELMO D. ROEBUCK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, this week in my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the people are gathering to bid farewell to one of our native sons, the honorable Elmo D. Roebuck. After having lived a life of public service, community activism, and cultural promotion, Roebuck passed away last week at the age of 74.

A political mover and shaker, Roebuck was one of the men who led and molded the U.S. Virgin Islands in its formative years. He, along with others, was responsible for the early successes of the territory on its road to self-governance. He was a mentor, a strategist, and a fervent fighter for the cause of the people of the Virgin Islands.

He was born in 1934 to Ector and Nathalia Roebuck and graduated valedictorian of the class of 1952 at the Charlotte Amalie High School in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. In 1956, he graduated from what is now Hampton University in Virginia with a bachelor of arts degree in business administration. Returning to the Virgin Islands, Roebuck taught at the Charlotte Amalie High School and held several government posts before becoming the youngest Virgin Islander to hold a Cabinet-level post in 1964, when he was named by the late Governor Ralph Paiewonsky to head the Department of Housing and Community Renewal.

He later joined the Unity Party and then became one of the organizers of

the new Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands in the 1970s, running as a candidate for Lieutenant Governor with the late Alexander Farrelly. The team lost that election, but he entered politics once again in 1972, becoming the highest vote-getter in the St. Thomas-St. John district in the race for a seat in the Virgin Islands Legislature.

Roebuck went on to serve six consecutive terms in that body, becoming chair of the finance committee in the 10th and 14th legislatures, and the President of that body in the 11th, 12th and 15th legislatures.

Mr. Roebuck is most remembered for his leadership in transforming housing in the territory. As commissioner of Housing Community Renewal, he was responsible for the formulation of an aggressive plan that provided a safe, decent home for every Virgin Islander. He oversaw the clearance of blighted, slum areas and the creation of modern neighborhoods across the Virgin Islands.

In 2005 in an interview with the online newspaper the VI Source, Mr. Roebuck recounted that his biggest accomplishment was the "shepherding through of the Coastal Zone Management Commission," the body that oversees the development and preservation of one of the Virgin Islands most treasured resources, its coastal areas.

During his tenure in the VI Legislature, he was responsible for the creation of the Post Audit Division, which improved that body's ability to track government finances and advise senators on critical issues before that body.

Roebuck was also a Virgin Islands tradition bearer. Having learned the art of telling folktales with music and humor from his father Ector, he would share them with schoolchildren and anyone who wanted to enjoy the rich history and culture of the Virgin Islands people.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands are saddened by the loss of Elmo Roebuck, whose community spirit was well noted in his legislative and administrative accomplishments; his service to his church and service organizations; and his sharing of Virgin Islands stories with young and old.

During his lifetime, he was knighted by the Queen of Denmark and honored by the Virgin Islands Legislature in 2003. This week he is being remembered for his cultural contributions with a storytelling wake at the Virgin Islands Legislature, and on Thursday, he will be laid to rest in a final goodbye by the people who served and loved him well.

I would like to express my condolences to his wife and his children and grandchildren. May they be comforted at this difficult time with the knowledge that his life was a life well lived.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.