

Korea, the war in Vietnam, the Gulf Wars, and more recently during the Overseas Contingency Operations, dogs have undergone active service at the sides of their masters, they have played the role of hero, by showing bravery under fire, saving lives (often by sacrificing their own), and bringing comfort to the injured and infirmed.

The call of modern warfare, as the Gulf Wars and later conflicts have demonstrated, exemplifies our use of the most sophisticated, technologically advanced equipment that the United States could procure to bring swift and decisive victory for a just cause. To this end, the U.S. had in the past expended every available resource to meet the ultimate goal while protecting the lives and resources of those fighting for it. Although the face of war has changed, some fundamental tools and weapons used in combat have not.

Canines or War Dogs were used in warfare throughout history supporting combat operations. Long before the invention of gunpowder, dogs were gathered in columns; many of them clad in armor and spiked collars by the military forces of the Roman Empire. One of the first uses of canines in the United States Armed Services was during the bleakest time in this country's history, the Civil War, where dogs were used as messengers, guards and as mascots.

Noting the overall contribution to the military forces' effectiveness the United States Armed Service made the canine force a formal part of the its military structure with the inception of the first War Dog Reception and Training Center established at Front Royal, Virginia in August of 1942. The completion of this center allowed for the training of 200 men and 500 dogs. But the enormous influx of dogs pushed these numbers up to 400 men and 900 dogs by June of 1943.

Within a year the Armed Forces had procured up 11,000 War Dogs to serve in a variety of capacities—Sentry Dogs, trained to assist in guard duty at arsenals, ammunition dumps, ration depots, and water works; Attack Dogs, early in the canine program these dogs were limited in production but were invaluable in beach patrols or in any situation where trespassers might be at a distance from the sentry; Tactical Dogs, used in combat situations; and Silent Scout Dogs, trained as tactical dogs to give silent warning to their handlers of the presence of enemy troops.

Additionally, there were also Messenger Dogs, trained to deliver messages on the battlefield as they were swift, sure of foot and could find their way in any type of weather. Casualty Dogs were trained to aid the medical corps in finding wounded soldiers on the battlefield and finding injured individuals in debris caused by bombings. The Sledge Dogs were particularly skilled in finding downed Airmen, Soldiers and marines in snowbound regions inaccessible by normal means. Then there were the Pack Dogs, trained to transport loads of up to 40 pounds. They would be able to work with field units in carrying small machine guns, ammunition and food.

During the Gulf War, at least 150 highly trained German Shepherds were used by the United States Armed Services to guard and protect their troops, supplies and aircraft.

Military Working Dog, MWD, teams—dogs and handlers—perform a function vital for force protection. An estimated 2,300 working dogs were serving within the U.S. Department

of Defense as late as 2004. These teams, from every military service, are deployed worldwide to support the war on terror, helping to safeguard military bases and activities and to detect bombs and other explosives before they inflict harm.

The MWD teams are an integral part of the U.S. mission in Iraq and Afghanistan, devoting many hours to carrying out all the traditional roles of military dogs. Guard duty is a basic MWD function, but their additional responsibilities include base security, individual and crowd control, tracking, and explosive and narcotic detection. Most dogs are dual-purpose trained: police dogs first, then with a specialty skill such as bomb detection.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, several hundred Military Working Dogs perform their duties in the same hazardous environment as their handlers and other soldiers. They take on small arms fire, are bombed, suffer through the heat and sandstorms and a list of other dangers. However, they serve next to their handlers and soldiers without wavering.

These warrior canines are truly an American treasure and after their patriotic service has expired and they are eventually retired we should all support their immediate adoption into a caring home.

Again, I am an avid supporter of our military in all capacities including the Military Working Dog Program. These highly trained canines and their handlers are on the front lines of our national security and should be commended for years of dedicated and courageous service.

PERMITTING USE OF CAPITOL ROTUNDA FOR VICTIMS OF HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 236, to permit the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

It has been over 60 years since the Holocaust. For many of the survivors, the Holocaust remains an everyday reality. Year-round the Jewish people persistently teach and inform others about the horrors of the Holocaust. The Days of Remembrance is one day in the year when special effort is made to remember those that endured, struggled and died. Six million Jews were murdered and many families were completely devastated.

There are many ways in which this day is observed. Generally the Day of Remembrance, or Yom Hashoah, has been observed with candle lighting, speakers, poems, prayers, and singing. Six candles are lighted to represent the six million individuals who lost their lives and Holocaust survivors speak about their experiences or share in the readings.

This Congress established the Days of Remembrance as our nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is a lasting living memorial to the victims and Congress has au-

thorized that the museum will take the lead in commemorating the Days of Remembrance and also to encourage and sponsor suitable ceremonies throughout the United States.

This concurrent resolution is an affirmation of our continued support as we stand together with our Jewish brothers and sisters. Also, it allows for the Holocaust Memorial Museum to continue the annual commencement of the Days of Remembrance by initiating the week, which starts April 11, this year, with a memorial service in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. The Holocaust Memorial Museum has been organizing and leading the national Days of Remembrance ceremony in the Rotunda since 1982; and it is my desire to maintain this tradition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 5, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was not present during rollcall vote No. 90 on March 4, 2010 because I had to return to California for important business. Had I been present, I would have voted: on rollcall vote No. 90, I would have voted "yes."

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today in support of H. Res. 1097, "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week."

Let me begin by thanking my colleague Rep. DANIEL LIPINSKI for introducing this resolution, as it is important that we acknowledge and recognize the great influence and importance engineers have had over the last century in the development of our nation.

It is also important that we recognize that Engineers and those involved in emerging research and science hold the keys to the future development of our great nation. That is why it is necessary that we continue to invest not only in the education of our children in the areas of math and science but also in engineering programs at the high school, university and graduate school levels. By increasing our collective body of knowledge in these areas we will help ensure that the United States will continue to grow, develop and create new opportunities and ideas for future generations and maintain our competitive edge globally.

Engineers have played a major role in my district in Houston, Texas. Had it not been for the many fine Texas engineers, scientists and construction workers, many of the large projects that directly benefit Houston and its citizens would not exist today.

One of the largest of such projects is the Port of Houston, which sees over 212 million tons of cargo pass through its gates every year. The Port of Houston and the economic activity generated by the port are also attributable to nearly 785,000 jobs in the State of

Texas alone. These jobs generate over \$39 billion in personal income annually.

Madam Speaker, engineers in Houston have also played a vital role in the construction of a new Metro light rail service which runs over approximately 8 miles of track from Downtown Houston to the Texas Medical Center and Reliant Park. This project has greatly helped the people of my district by decreasing both the pollution as well as the amount of traffic on the highways during rush hour, and by creating new affordable travel options for Houstonians.

In the Houston area, engineers have also provided the expertise and know-how over the past several decades in the construction of over 575.5 miles of freeways and expressways in the 10-county Houston metropolitan area. This vast network of highways and expressways has further helped Houston to grow into the international transportation hub that it is today.

Madam Speaker, with the advent of globalization, it is important that we work together with engineers, engineering firms and governments around the globe to foster better relations as well as create reliable infrastructures. Creating a more global and standardized network of reliable infrastructure would seek to improve transnational relations through increased trade, communications and further opportunities for travel and exchange.

Officially establishing the week of February 14, 2010, to February 20, 2010 as "National Engineers Week" would seek to increase national awareness of the importance engineers have in improving the lives of our citizens through public works and infrastructure projects. Also, by refocusing our efforts in education to include more engineering, math and science courses and curriculum, we can help to ensure that the United States continues to serve as the model of state-of-the-art engineering to the world.

I urge my colleagues to support engineers and their families across our country and support this resolution.

H.R. 3695, TO AUTHORIZE FUNDING FOR, AND INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY TO, THE NATIONAL MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS SYSTEM

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 5, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today in support of H.R. 3695 "To authorize funding for, and increase accessibility to, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, to facilitate data sharing between such system and the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to provide incentive grants to help facilitate reporting to such systems, and for other purposes."

I would like to begin by thanking my colleague Rep. CHRIS MURPHY for introducing this resolution in the House, as it is important that we consistently work towards improving the law enforcement capabilities of our nation and ensure that criminals are brought to justice.

I stand today in support of this legislation because it will assist our nation's law enforcement officials to work together in solving crimes and prosecuting criminals. One of the biggest problems plaguing our nation today is a lack of coordination between various law enforcement and federal agencies in solving crimes and prosecuting criminals.

It is also important that victims of crime and their families are given every opportunity to see that justice is served to criminals. By fostering better communication and interaction between our local, state and federal law enforcement and investigative agencies the American people will be better protected, and dangerous criminals across the nation will be taken off the streets.

This piece of legislation, H.R. 3695 or "Billy's Law," is named after Billy Smolinski of Connecticut, who went missing on August 24, 2004 at the age of 31. In the aftermath of the disappearance of their son, Billy's family experienced many obstacles in searching for their missing son.

One of the largest obstacles the Smolinski family faced in the search for their son was the fact that there was little coordination and interaction between the numerous departments and agencies that oversaw the multi-jurisdictional investigation into Billy Smolinski's disappearance.

While federal law mandates that law enforcement agencies report missing children

there is not currently a mandate stating that law enforcement agencies must report missing adults or unidentified bodies. This creates a serious void of good information that could otherwise be used towards the prosecution of violent offenders and in the defense of the American public.

Furthermore, although law enforcement agencies can voluntarily report this information, there is a real lack of resources and knowledge of how the reporting system works. This is an important issue which we must address as it often prevents law enforcement agencies from reporting this vital information. By adopting this legislation, we will ensure that this information is communicated in an effective and timely manner.

Billy's Law would empower families and loved ones of the missing to seek out justice. One way this piece of legislation would help in this effort is by helping to secure funding for the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System—the only federal missing persons and unidentified remains database that can be cross-searched, accessed, and added to by the public.

The expansion of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons Database would enable the families and loved ones of the missing to searching for the missing person and add invaluable information to the case profile that only they would know.

H.R. 3695 would also help to create a more efficient reporting process for law enforcement and medical examiners by connecting the FBI's National Crime Information Center and the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System. Connecting these databases makes them more comprehensive and more likely to lead to a missing person or unidentified remains match.

It is important that we continue to examine the criminal justice system in this country to ensure that law enforcement agencies work together for the benefit and protection of the American public. It has been shown that when law enforcement agencies at the local, state, and federal level work together, more information is able to be gathered and analyzed in criminal cases.

I ask my colleagues for their support of this legislation as well as their support for the numerous local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies that keep our country safe every day. I also ask for your continued support of the Smolinski family. I strongly urge you to support this resolution.