

echoed this sentiment, concisely stating, "All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1295.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I urge the passage of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, in closing, I just want to thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) for his foresight and for proposing this resolution. In closing, I want to wish all the moms in Massachusetts and across America a happy Mother's Day, including my own mom and my mother-in-law and my wife.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1295.

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. LYNCH. Madam 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.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1247) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 3 through 9, 2010, and throughout the year.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1247

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and to honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the Nation through work at all levels of government;

Whereas millions of individuals work in government service in every city, county, and State across America and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas public service is a noble calling, involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;

Whereas Federal, State, and local governments are responsive, innovative, and effective because of the outstanding work of public servants;

Whereas the United States is a great and prosperous Nation, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the Nation benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of these highly trained individuals;

Whereas public servants—

(1) defend our freedom and advance the interests of the United States around the world;

(2) provide vital strategic support functions to our military and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;

(3) fight crime and fires;

(4) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;

(5) deliver Social Security and Medicare benefits;

(6) fight disease and promote better health;

(7) protect the environment and the Nation's parks;

(8) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;

(9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

(10) help the Nation recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks;

(11) teach and work in our schools and libraries;

(12) develop new technologies and explore the earth, moon, and space to help improve our understanding of how our world changes;

(13) improve and secure our transportation systems;

(14) promote economic growth; and

(15) assist our Nation's veterans;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States, and are on the front lines in the fight against terrorism and in maintaining homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent America's interests and promote American ideals;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, abuse, and dangers to public health;

Whereas the men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as those skilled trade and craft Federal employees who provide support to their efforts, are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances, and contribute greatly to the security of the Nation and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflict in defense of this Nation and its ideals, and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas government workers have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas, and serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants;

Whereas May 3 through 9, 2010, has been designated Public Service Recognition Week to honor America's Federal, State, and local government employees; and

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week is celebrating its 26th anniversary through job fairs, student activities, and agency exhibits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to this great Nation during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year;

(2) salutes government employees for their unyielding dedication and spirit of public service;

(3) honors those government employees who have given their lives in service to their country;

(4) calls upon a new generation to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession; and

(5) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at all levels of government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as chairman of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over the Federal workforce, postal service, and the District of Columbia, I am pleased to present House Resolution 1247 for consideration. This legislation expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year.

As the original sponsor of the resolution, along with my friend and colleague, Mr. CHAFFETZ of Utah, I'm proud to say that House Resolution 1247 has the support of 60 Members of Congress. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. CHAFFETZ for jointly introducing the resolution with me and for his work on bringing this to the floor today. I'd also like to thank the Partnership for Public Service for their role in organizing this annual celebration week, as well as for their superior work promoting careers in the public sector.

Madam Speaker, this week marks the 27th anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week. From May 3 through May 9, 2010, Public Service Recognition Week is designed to commemorate the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice made by our Nation's Federal, State, and local government employees. It's highly appropriate that we take a moment each year to fully appreciate the extraordinary deeds that are performed by our public employees throughout our country and abroad. Among other things, public servants fight fires and they enforce our laws; teach in our schools and libraries; defend our Nation; and protect the environment and our national parks. These individuals deserve our highest praise, although too often they are criticized and undervalued.

There are millions of individuals who work in government services in every city, county, and State across America and in hundreds of cities abroad. We all benefit enormously from the hard work of these dedicated individuals, and I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight a terrific example from my own district of a good Federal employee

who performs on a daily basis tasks that are vital to a lot of people that we worry about—and that is within the Veterans Administration Boston health care system. The VA system is a consolidation of facilities which delivers high-quality patient care to our Nation's veterans in areas such as mental health services, occupational therapy, and the women's veterans' homeless programs. The employees of all of these centers help to ensure that our Nation's heroes receive the health care they deserve. In particular, Cecilia McVey, who is the Associate Director of Nursing and Patient Care Services at VA Boston, who began her Federal career in 1972, and continues to be recognized as a leader of the Boston VA health care system.

Madam Speaker, our public servants are being recognized this week. I just want to talk about a few of them very, very briefly.

For example, Pius Bannis works for the field office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. He has worked tirelessly and selflessly providing assistance to Haitian orphans in the aftermath of the devastation of the January, 2010, earthquake.

Sergeant Kimberly D. Munley and Sergeant Mark A. Todd, Sr., both civilian employees, members of AFGE, the American Federation of Government Employees, who responded to the shooting at Fort Hood. These are civilian employees but they confronted an armed gunman and also mass chaos. The two civilian Defense Department police officers brought an end to the tragic carnage and rampage at Fort Hood that killed 14 people and wounded 43 others.

Also, Sara Bloom, an attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office in my own district of Massachusetts. Sara Bloom led the legal case against one of the major drug manufacturers and recovered \$2.3 billion on behalf of the American people in fines and penalties—the largest health care fraud settlement in the history of the United States.

Jamie Konstas, an Intelligence Analyst at the FBI. He provided vital resources in the fight against commercial and sexual exploitation of children, which has resulted in the conviction of more than 500 individuals and predators and the rescue of more than a thousand child victims.

Also, Carl W. Pike and the Project Coronado Team. They led the largest strike against the La Familia Mexican drug cartel, resulting in more than a thousand arrests, plus the seizure of 1½ tons of methamphetamine and \$32 million in cash.

Also, Terry Glass and the Army Medical Support Systems Team, which developed a state-of-the-art medical evacuation kit to provide lifesaving treatment and emergency transportation to soldiers severely wounded by roadside bombs.

Lastly, Robert James (RJ) Simonds, who dedicated his 20-year career to fighting the global HIV/AIDS epidemic,

advising policymakers on the creation of lifesaving programs and working in developing nations to assure those families receive those services.

Those are just a handful of the public servants that we recognize this week. They are a wonderful reflection of what a lot of people do every day. Madam Speaker, our public servants' hard work and dedication contribute significantly to the greatness and prosperity of our Nation. It is for this reason that, with the help the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) I introduce this resolution, and I urge its adoption. Public servants improve our lives on a daily basis. I hope this Congress will take the time to honor all of those who have dedicated their life to our country by voting in favor of House Resolution 1247.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1247, commending public servants for their service and dedication to our Nation during Public Service Recognition Week. Every day, millions of hardworking and highly talented Americans serve their country and help make the United States even stronger. As a Nation, we owe public servants everywhere our gratitude for the work that they do.

Americans rely on public employees to keep us safe. Every day, men and women in uniform worldwide protect our freedom and allow us to live our lives in peace and security. When we have an emergency, we depend on firefighters and police officers to help us out in a dangerous and difficult situation. Only a few days ago, we witnessed the heroic actions of the Coast Guard in coming to the rescue of over 100 oil workers trapped on the burning Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. During many natural disasters, the dedicated members of the National Guard leave their own families and help people and their communities recover and rebuild in times of peril.

□ 1300

On normal days, all American lives are enriched by public employees. Whether it's the postal employee who delivers our mail regardless of the weather or the public schoolteacher whose constant enthusiasm inspires our children to succeed in school, we enjoy the benefits of the work our public servants give us constantly.

Much of the work of public employees we take for granted and do not even realize. There are people on every corner in this country who step up and do the right thing. Now, from time to time we hear about a public employee who does the wrong thing, and that usually will make the news, as it should, because it is not the norm. It is not regular for that to happen. We will highlight those. We will be vigilant in making sure that our public servants are doing what they're supposed to be doing in serving the public.

Whether it's at the local, State, or Federal level, public servants are a significant part of the fabric of this country, and we could not be the great Nation that we are today without their tireless efforts on our behalf.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to support this resolution today which commends the service of the millions of Americans who serve our country daily. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I also encourage all Americans to take some time to thank the public employees that they see for all they do to improve our lives and strengthen our country.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1247, which commends public servants across the United States for their continued service to the nation during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year. This legislation honors the men and women who recognize that service is a solution to serious challenges and selflessly dedicate themselves to the betterment of communities across the country.

I thank Chairman TOWNS for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congressman LYNCH, for acknowledging the importance of a strong culture of service in the United States.

It is important that we continue to honor and commend the public servants who tirelessly dedicate their lives to serving our nation. I have personally witnessed the transformative power of public service in my own state. Last year, in California, the Corporation for National and Community Service helped 230,000 individuals of all ages and backgrounds meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement through 366 projects state-wide.

We also must honor and commend employees at all levels of government, many of whom dedicate the majority of their lives working to ensure that government is responsive, innovative, and—most importantly—attuned to the needs of the American people. Public servants in government are critical to promoting and protecting the core American values of democracy and representation.

Finally, we cannot forget those in the medical profession who care for the sick, young and old; the teachers who educate our children to become future leaders in our classrooms, colleges, and universities; the police and firefighters who protect our streets and keep us safe; or the construction workers who build our roads and bridges so we can get to work. Public service comes in many forms, all of which are equally vital in promoting the economic and moral strength of our nation.

Madam Speaker, it is entirely fitting that applaud those who serve the public good—whether through their careers, community organizations, or on their own in their spare time—and commend them for their efforts improve the lives of millions of Americans.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1247.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I want to thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) for his support on this resolution and co-sponsorship. I ask my colleagues to

join us in supporting House Resolution 1247.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1247.

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.

TELEWORK IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2010

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1722) to require the head of each executive agency to establish and implement a policy under which employees shall be authorized to telework, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1722

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 “Telework Improvements Act of 2010”.

SEC. 2. TELEWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part III of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 63 the following:

“CHAPTER 65—TELEWORK

“Sec.

“6501. Definitions.

“6502. Governmentwide telework requirement.

“6503. Implementation.

“6504. Telework Managing Officer.

“6505. Evaluating telework in agencies.

“§ 6501. Definitions

“For purposes of this chapter—

“(1) the term ‘agency’ means an Executive agency (as defined by section 105), except as otherwise provided in this chapter;

“(2) the term ‘telework’ or ‘teleworking’ refers to a work flexibility arrangement under which an employee performs the duties and responsibilities of such employee’s position, and other authorized activities, from an approved worksite other than the location from which the employee would otherwise work;

“(3) the term ‘continuity of operations’, as used with respect to an agency, refers to measures designed to ensure that functions essential to the mission of the agency can continue to be performed during a wide range of emergencies, including localized acts of nature, accidents, public health emergencies, and technological or attack-related emergencies; and

“(4) the term ‘Telework Managing Officer’ means, with respect to an agency, the Telework Managing Officer of the agency designated under section 6504.

“§ 6502. Governmentwide telework requirement

“(a) TELEWORK REQUIREMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this chapter, the head of each agency shall establish a policy under which employees shall be au-

thorized to telework, subject to paragraph (2) and subsection (b).

“(2) AGENCY POLICIES.—The head of each agency shall ensure—

“(A) that the telework policy established under this section—

“(i) conforms to the regulations promulgated by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management under section 6503, and

“(ii) authorizes employees to telework to the maximum extent possible without diminishing agency operations and performance; and

“(B) that information on whether a position is eligible for telework is included in descriptions of available positions and recruiting materials.

“(b) PROVISIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be considered—

“(1) to require the head of an agency to authorize teleworking in the case of an employee whose duties and responsibilities—

“(A) require daily direct handling of classified information; or

“(B) are such that their performance requires on-site activity which cannot be carried out from a site removed from the employee’s regular place of employment; or

“(2) to prevent the temporary denial of permission for an employee to telework if, in the judgment of the agency head, the employee is needed to respond to an emergency.

“(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this chapter shall—

“(1) be considered to require any employee to telework; or

“(2) prevent an agency from permitting an employee to telework as part of a continuity of operations plan.

“§ 6503. Implementation

“(a) RESPONSIBILITIES OF AGENCIES.—The head of each agency shall ensure that—

“(1) appropriate training is provided to supervisors and managers, and to all employees who are authorized to telework, as directed by the Telework Managing Officer of such agency;

“(2) the training covers the information security guidelines issued by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under this section;

“(3) no distinction is made between teleworkers and nonteleworkers for purposes of—

“(A) periodic appraisals of job performance of employees,

“(B) training, rewarding, reassigning, promoting, reducing in grade, retaining, or removing employees,

“(C) work requirements, or

“(D) other acts involving managerial discretion;

“(4) in determining what constitutes diminished performance in the case of an employee who teleworks, the agency shall consult the performance management guidelines of the Office of Personnel Management; and

“(5) in the case of an agency which is named in paragraph (1) or (2) of section 901(b) of title 31, the agency incorporates telework in its continuity of operations plans and uses telework in response to emergencies.

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF OPM.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall—

“(1) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this chapter, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, promulgate regulations necessary to carry out this chapter, except that such regulations shall not apply with respect to the Government Accountability Office;

“(2) provide advice, assistance, and any necessary training to agencies with respect to—

“(A) questions of eligibility to telework, such as the effect of employee performance on eligibility, and

“(B) making telework part of the agency’s goals, including those of individual supervisors and managers; and

“(3) in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, maintain a central, publicly available telework website that includes—

“(A) any regulations relating to telework and any other information the Director considers appropriate,

“(B) an e-mail address which may be used to submit comments to the Director on agency telework programs or agreements, and

“(C) a copy of all reports issued under section 6505(a).

“(c) SECURITY GUIDELINES.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, shall issue guidelines not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this chapter to ensure the adequacy of information and security protections for information and information systems used in, or otherwise affected by, teleworking. Such guidelines shall, at a minimum, include requirements necessary—

“(1) to control access to agency information and information systems;

“(2) to protect agency information (including personally identifiable information) and information systems;

“(3) to limit the introduction of vulnerabilities;

“(4) to protect information systems not under the control of the agency that are used for teleworking; and

“(5) to safeguard wireless and other telecommunications capabilities that are used for teleworking.

“§ 6504. Telework Managing Officer

“(a) DESIGNATION AND COMPENSATION.—Each agency shall designate an officer, to be known as the ‘Telework Managing Officer’. The Telework Managing Officer of an agency shall be designated—

“(1) by the Chief Human Capital Officer of such agency; or

“(2) if the agency does not have a Chief Human Capital Officer, by the head of such agency.

“(b) STATUS WITHIN AGENCY.—The Telework Managing Officer of an agency shall be a senior official of the agency who has direct access to the head of the agency.

“(c) LIMITATIONS.—An individual may not hold the position of Telework Managing Officer as a noncareer appointee (as defined in section 3132(a)(7)), and such position may not be considered or determined to be of a confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy advocating character.

“(d) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each Telework Managing Officer of an agency shall—

“(1) provide advice on teleworking to the head of such agency and to the Chief Human Capital Officer of such agency (if any);

“(2) serve as a resource on teleworking for supervisors, managers, and employees of such agency;

“(3) serve as the primary point of contact on telework matters for agency employees and (with respect to such agency) for Congress and other agencies;

“(4) work with senior management of the agency to develop and implement a plan to incorporate telework into the agency’s regular business strategies and its continuity of operations strategies, taking into consideration factors such as—

“(A) cost-effectiveness,

“(B) equipment,

“(C) training, and

“(D) data collection;