

groups, police departments or fire departments, don't just gain value experience in building and engineering; they learn about the value of hard work and fair competition.

As the Representative from Maryland's Fifth Congressional District, I am also proud to point out that my district has been the home to a string of soapbox derby champions.

In 2007, Kacie Rader, a neighbor of mine from Mechanicsville, Maryland, won the Greater Washington race and went on to become the first Marylander to win the national soapbox derby title, beating out 550 other local champions.

In 2008, Courtney Rayle, also from Mechanicsville, won the Greater Washington race and also went on to win at the national race in Akron, Ohio.

And finally, last year, her brother Justin Rayle, made it three Greater Washington wins in a row for Maryland's Fifth Congressional District. This is not fixed, I want to tell you. These are just great kids, and we are excited about the soapbox derby.

June's race will be the continuation of a proud tradition for our country and its Capital, and I thank Chairwoman BROWN and Ranking Member SHUSTER for their support and help in bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the majority leader for his leadership on this, and set the record straight. I said you have supported this every year; I meant every year you have been in Congress. You haven't been around for 69 years.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 247, introduced by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), which authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

This annual event encourages all boys and girls, ages 8 through 17, to construct and operate their own soap box vehicles. The goals of this event are to teach children and young adults the basic skills of craftsmanship, the spirit of competition, and the perseverance to continue a project once it has begun. The event is supported by hundreds of volunteers and parents. In the past, the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby has produced winners who went on to the national finals. Many volunteers donate considerable time supporting the event, and providing families with a fun-filled day, which has become a tradition in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

The derby organizers will work with the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police to ensure the appropriate rules and regulations are in place.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 247.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 247.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1278) in support and recognition of National Safe Digging Month, April, 2010, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1278

Whereas each year there are over 200,000 incidences of unintentional damage to underground utility infrastructure (including pipelines, electrical, telecommunications, water, and sewer lines), many as a result of an individual who fails to have underground utilities lines located before digging;

Whereas there are 2,534,000 miles of pipelines, of which 2,036,800 are for distribution of natural gas, 323,600 for transmission of natural gas, and 173,500 for hazardous materials including oil;

Whereas some utility lines are buried only a few inches underground, making them easy to strike even during shallow digging projects;

Whereas failure to locate underground utility lines before digging may have unintended consequences such as service interruption, environmental damage, property damage, personal injury, and even death;

Whereas State one-call notification programs allow homeowners and excavators to have underground utilities located and marked before conducting digging or excavation activities;

Whereas Congress first established minimum standards for State one-call notification programs and authorized appropriations for Federal grants to improve State one-call notification programs in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century in 1998;

Whereas Congress required a 3-digit, nationwide toll-free number be established to be used by State one-call systems in the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002;

Whereas in 2005, "811" was designated as the nationwide one-call number for homeowners and excavators to call before conducting digging or excavation activities;

Whereas in the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act of 2006 Congress authorized the Secretary of Transportation to issue civil penalties to any owner or operator of a pipeline facility who fails to respond to a request to mark an underground pipeline facility, any individual who fails to use a State's one-call system prior to digging or excavation activities, or any individual who disregards location information or markings while digging or excavating;

Whereas the one-call system has helped reduce the number of digging damages caused by failure to locate underground utilities prior to digging from 57 percent in 2004 to 37.5 percent in 2009;

Whereas the 1,400 members of the Common Ground Alliance, who are dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services by promoting effective damage prevention practices, promote the national "Call Before You Dig" campaign to increase public awareness about the importance of calling 811 to identify the exact location of underground utility lines;

Whereas the Common Ground Alliance has designated April as National Safe Digging month in order to increase awareness of safe digging practices across the country and to celebrate the anniversary of the designation of 811 as the national "Call Before You Dig" number; and

Whereas April is the beginning of the peak of excavation projects around the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month, and encourages all homeowners and excavators throughout the country to call 811 before conducting any digging or excavation activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 1278.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1278, a resolution to designate the month of April as National Safe Digging Month. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, PHMSA, along with many States and stakeholders across the Nation, have come together to support this designation. If approved, it will also mark the 3-year anniversary of 811 as the national "Call Before You Dig" telephone number.

This year, throughout the entire month of April, PHMSA is encouraging all homeowners and contractors to call 811 before they dig to prevent fatalities, injuries, environmental dangers, and other possible loss of critical infrastructure and services. According to PHMSA, excavation damage continues to be a leading cause of serious pipeline incidents. In fact, each year there are hundreds of thousands of underground utility lines damaged through excavation in the United States, 35 percent of which occur as a direct result of people not calling before digging.

According to PHMSA, the one-call notification system has helped reduce the percentage of excavation damages caused by failure to locate underground utilities prior to digging, from 57 percent in 2004 to 35 percent in 2009. Clearly, these numbers speak for themselves. Indeed, it is extremely important to call 811, the Call Before You Dig line, and it is such an easy way for individuals and companies to save lives, the environment, our Nation's infrastructure, and even save money and investments. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of House Resolution 1278, a resolution expressing support of the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month.

I introduced this resolution to encourage people to call 811, the nationwide Call Before You Dig number, before conducting any digging or excavating activities and to help draw attention to the problem of excavators and homeowners unintentionally damaging underground utilities.

Throughout the month of April, U.S. Department of Transportation, State utility regulators, and damage prevention stakeholders such as the Common Ground Alliance took part in public awareness campaigns to alert people of the dangers of not having underground utilities located before digging.

Each year more than 256,000 utility lines are unintentionally damaged during excavation activities resulting in fatalities, injuries, loss of utility service, and environmental damage. Many of these unintentional strikes could have been easily avoided if somebody had dialed 811 and had all of the underground utility lines in the area marked.

When a homeowner or contractor calls 811, he is connected to a call center that works with all of the local utility companies to have any underground utilities in the vicinity of the project located and marked. Many utilities, such as cable and telephone lines, are buried only a few inches underground, so even a project that involves only a shallow digging can result in damage to a utility line.

Every weekend, hundreds of homeowners lose cable or telephone service because they unintentionally cut a line while putting in a new mailbox or planting a new tree. While loss of cable or telephone service can be inconvenient, unintentionally striking an underground pipeline or electrical line can be deadly. There are more than 2 million miles of pipelines and more than 1 million of underground electric lines in the United States. These utilities are usually buried deeper than telecommunication lines, but they can be easily struck during road construction and home improvement projects.

Spring marks the beginning of the construction season and the time of year when most homeowners are taking on home improvement and landscaping projects. As contractors and homeowners move forward with their projects, it is important that they remember to call 811 and have underground utilities located before they begin any activity that involves digging or excavating.

Since I will be home this weekend planting trees in my yard, I have called my family, and I hope they have made the call to 811. So if my son, Garrett, is listening to me, make sure you dial 811 before I get home so when we plant the trees this weekend, we are doing all of the right things. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1278, introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), which expresses support and recognizes April as National Safe Digging Month. H. Res. 1278 also celebrates the third anniversary of 8-1-1, the nationwide telephone number that all homeowners and contractors must use before conducting digging or excavation activities.

According to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), excavation damage continues to be a leading cause of serious pipeline incidents. More than 256,000 underground utility lines are damaged during excavation each year in the United States; 35 percent of those incidents are due to homeowners and contractors not calling 8-1-1 before they dig.

We created this one-call notification system in 2002 in the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act (P.L. 107-355), which directed the Secretary of Transportation and the Federal Communications Commission to establish a three-digit, nationwide toll-free telephone number for excavators to call to dispatch companies that operate underground utilities in the area to mark the exact location of their utilities. This helps excavators avoid hitting the utilities when digging and any fatalities, injuries, environmental damage, or loss to critical infrastructure and services that could occur.

According to PHMSA, 8-1-1 has helped reduce the number of excavation damages caused by failure to locate underground utilities prior to digging from 57 percent in 2004 to 35 percent in 2009.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1278, to recognize April as National Safe Digging Month. The Common Ground Alliance, an association dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services by promoting effective damage prevention practices, has designated April as National Safe Digging Month in order to increase awareness of safe digging practices across the country. This resolution also celebrates the anniversary of the designation of 811 as the national 'Call Before You Dig' number.

I would like to recognize Congressman SHUSTER for his hard work authoring this resolution and bringing it to the Floor. The United States has over 2,500,000 miles of pipelines, of which 2,200,000 are for distribution of natural gas, 320,500 for transmission of natural gas, and 168,900 for hazardous materials including oil. Unfortunately, each year there are over 200,000 incidences of unintentional damage to underground utility infrastructure (including pipelines, electrical, telecommunications, water, and sewer lines). Many of these incidents are a result of an individual who fails to have underground utilities lines located before digging, as some utility lines are buried only a few inches underground.

To prevent these accidents, Congress required a 3-digit, nationwide toll-free number be established to be used by State one-call systems in the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002. These one-call notification programs allow homeowners and excavators to have underground utilities located and marked before conducting digging or excavation activities. I am pleased to say that the one-call system has helped reduce the number of digging damage caused by failure to locate under-

ground utilities prior to digging from 57 percent in 2004 to 37.5 percent in 2009. And as April is the beginning of the peak of excavation projects around the Nation, I am pleased to join Congressman SHUSTER and the Common Ground Alliance in raising awareness about this topic.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in supporting H. Res. 1278.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. 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 Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1278, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRALIA CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of a proposed Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement, and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement. In accordance with section 123 of the Act, as amended by title XII of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277), a classified annex to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately. The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretaries of State and Energy and a letter from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed.

The proposed Agreement has been negotiated in accordance with the Act and other applicable law. In my judgment, it meets all applicable statutory requirements and will advance the non-proliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States.