

with grace because of his deep and abiding faith in God and in the knowledge that he had led a wonderful life. Last September, Ernie gave a farewell speech before a Tigers game at Comerica Park. I want to read from a bit of that speech so you have an understanding of why we all loved Ernie Harwell so much. He said:

"In my almost 92 years on this Earth, the good Lord has blessed me with a great journey. And the blessed part of that journey is that it's going to end here in the great State of Michigan. I deeply appreciate the people of Michigan. I love their grit. I love the way they face life. I love the family values they have. And you Tigers fans are the greatest fans of all. No question about that. And I certainly want to thank you from the depth of my heart for your devotion, your support, your loyalty, and your love. Thank you very much, and God bless you."

That's what he said, Mr. Speaker. And we love you too, Ernie.

Our hearts go out to Ernie's beloved wife, Lulu, for her great loss, and we send our thanks to Mrs. Harwell for sharing the man that she loved for these many years with millions throughout Michigan and around our Nation. And thank you, Ernie, for being such a special part of the lives of so many in our community. God bless you, good friend, and may you rest in peace.

□ 1445

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, this resolution was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER), on May 5, 2010. It was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which reported the resolution by unanimous consent on May 6, 2010. The measure enjoys the support of 70 Members of the House.

I thank the gentleman from Michigan for introducing this measure, and I thank the staff along with the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), for working to bring this resolution to the floor today.

On that note, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, they say that youth is wasted on the young, and in many ways it is. As a kid growing up in Michigan who loved baseball, going through those deep winters was very difficult. We would wait for the first signs of spring, and one of the surest signs that spring was here was the voice of Ernie Harwell. As I was growing up, our Tigers were not always at the top of their game. They had some very tough years there. But somehow that didn't matter when you listened to Ernie Harwell's voice on the radio. When you heard him describe the game of baseball, you could understand the majesty and the lore that runs through generations. And what was going on on that field to us who were listening was

very important. And as a child, you tend to think that some of the things you inherit or are fortunate enough to happen upon will stay that way forever. And in some ways Ernie tried his best. His long, distinguished career allowed a kid like me to think that somehow that voice would go on forever through that radio, reminding us of the joys of what is really a child's game.

And now Detroit has lost him, the baseball community has lost him, but we have not lost the resonance of his voice in our hearts. And every time spring comes, we will be reminded not only that the joy of the national pastime is back, but we will be reminded of the joy of listening to and being with Ernie Harwell.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge all Members to support the passage of H. Res. 1328.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution honoring Mr. Harwell, a colorful character who will be deeply missed by the people not only of Michigan, people throughout this Nation. I had an opportunity many, many years ago to hear him and I will be honest with you, even though my team was losing that day, I must admit I enjoyed hearing his voice, even though my team was not on top.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1328.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. TOWNS. 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.

URGING PREVENTION OF ATTACKS AGAINST FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1187) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to raising public awareness of and helping to prevent attacks against Federal employees while engaged in or on account of the performance of official duties, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1187

Whereas title 18 of the United States Code makes it a crime to forcibly assault, resist, intimidate, or interfere with a Federal employee while engaged in or on account of the performance of official duties, or to kill or

attempt to kill any such employee while so engaged or on such account;

Whereas the suicide attack on the Internal Revenue Service office in Austin, Texas on February 18, 2010, that claimed the life of two-tour Vietnam veteran Vernon Hunter follows the more than 1,200 attacks which were made on Internal Revenue Service employees between 2001 and 2008, attacks which have resulted in at least 197 convictions;

Whereas the shooting attack on Thursday, March 4, 2010, by John Patrick Bedell that injured two Pentagon guards was the fourth attack or security scare on a Federal building in 2010;

Whereas the Department of Justice filed 313 cases in fiscal year 2006, 326 cases in fiscal year 2007, 303 cases in fiscal year 2008, and 277 cases in fiscal year 2009 (as of August of such fiscal year), relating to attacks against Federal employees;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 civilian employees in the Federal workforce provide many forms of dedicated service to the United States and its people, such as fighting crime and fire, supporting our military, protecting health, providing essential human services, preserving the environment and maintaining our national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests, securing our borders, responding with assistance in times of natural disaster, regulating commerce, defending our freedom, and advancing our country's interests around the world, all of which contribute to the greatness and prosperity of the Nation; and

Whereas Federal employees are entitled to expect a reasonable degree of personal safety and security while carrying out their official duties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses the Nation's appreciation for the outstanding contributions made by Federal employees to the United States;

(2) supports the goal of protecting the safety and security of our Federal employees; and

(3) urges that the Government seek ways to improve the safety and security of our Federal employees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, with H. Res. 1187, this Chamber expresses its commitment to the safety and security of our Nation's public servants. H. Res. 1187 was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) on March 16, 2010. It was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which ordered it reported by unanimous consent on May 6, 2010. The measure enjoys the support of over 70 Members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women of our Federal workforce deserve our appreciation and our support. Their efforts are often undervalued, but they provide our Nation with many forms of critical services. The Federal workforce includes firefighters, law enforcement officers, and military support personnel. Federal employees protect the public, help keep our food and water clean, defend our borders, and preserve our national parks. They deliver our mail, care for our veterans, and provide all manners of other services that keep our country going.

While we in Congress may debate the details about the proper role that the Federal Government should play in our country, we can all agree that Federal employees should be able to expect to be able to carry out their duties with a degree of safety and security.

The Department of Justice has filed over a thousand cases relating to attacks against Federal employees since 2006, including a suicide attack on the Internal Revenue Service office in Austin, Texas. On February 18 of this year, that attack claimed the life of a two-tour Vietnam veteran, Vernon Hunter. The shooting attack at the entrance of the Pentagon on March 4 injured two Pentagon guards and was the fourth attack or scare on a Federal building in 2010.

These attacks sadden us all, and I am glad we are taking the time to condemn attacks against our Federal employees and to affirm our commitment to their safety and their security.

I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and also thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) and the staff for their work to bring this to where we are today. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to reserve the balance of my time so we may hear from the sponsor of the resolution, Mr. MORAN.

Mr. TOWNS. I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentleman from New York, the chairman of the committee, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER). Thank you very much for bringing this resolution to the floor.

The purpose is to help prevent attacks against Federal employees while they are engaged in or on account of the performance of their official duties.

Last month, we commemorated the 15th anniversary of the bombing of the Alfred Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City. This act of violence claimed 168 lives and injured more than 680 people. It was the most destructive act of terrorism on United States soil until the September 11, 2001, attacks. The Oklahoma City bomber, Timothy McVeigh, made Federal employees his target because he was angry at the United States Government.

In the 15 years since that horrific bombing, Federal employees have been the target of a great number of attacks. Internal Revenue Service employees have borne the brunt, as those who are frustrated with tax problems have taken their frustrations out on IRS workers just doing their jobs, in fact, carrying out the laws that the Congress makes. The IRS has recorded some 1,200 attacks on its employees since September 2001. Attacking a Federal employee engaged in or because of his or her work is a Federal crime. The Justice Department investigates some 300 cases per year.

We are a free society. Strong rhetoric is acceptable, even fashionable. But rhetoric should not inspire violence. Federal agencies devote significant resources and develop procedures to protect their employees. But two recent attacks on Federal employees highlight what I see as a worrying trend. In February, a plane was flown into the IRS building in Austin in an act of murder-suicide that claimed the life of a veteran of two tours in Vietnam.

In March, another deranged individual walked up to the Pentagon entrance and opened fire with a semi-automatic weapon, injuring two Pentagon guards. These acts were more than sensational attempts at mass murder. They were acts of domestic terrorism with Federal employees as the target.

We have the finest, most professional civil service in the world, and we take for granted that our Federal workers provide many forms of dedicated and important service to our Nation. Civilian employees serve in war zones providing essential support to our military. Federal workers maintain our national parks, our wildlife refuges and forests, secure our borders, and respond in times of natural disaster, as we can see in the gulf oil spill.

Our diplomats advance our country's interests around the world, very often in dangerous environments. The more than 2 million civilian employees in the Federal workforce deserve a reasonable degree of personal safety and security while carrying out their duties implementing the laws we make. It is incumbent upon the Congress and the administration to ensure their safety.

We have a responsibility and that's why I have introduced this bill, a responsibility to protect our Nation's Federal employees. House Resolution 1187 calls for a renewed commitment to our civil servants, and I urge my colleagues to unanimously support it.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1187, which increases public awareness to help prevent future attacks against Federal employees while engaged in or on account of the performance of their official duties. Truly, we must do all we can to prevent Federal workers from being victims of violence because of their public service.

Every year, hundreds of Federal workers are victims of cowardly acts of violence. In 2008 alone, the Department of Justice filed 303 cases against people who attacked Federal workers. And tragically, in 2010, we have already witnessed such instances of violence.

Mr. Speaker, our civilian Federal employees must not become victims of violence because of their jobs. Civilian Federal employees must feel safe while doing their jobs and serving our country.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution so we may raise public awareness of these attacks and to prevent future attacks. Thus, Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H. Res. 1187.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I think it is so important that we protect and support our Federal employees. Let me again urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1187, "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to raising public awareness of and helping to prevent attacks against Federal employees while engaged in or on account of the performance of official duties."

H. Res. 1187 will resolve that the House of Representatives: Expresses the Nation's appreciation for the outstanding contributions made by Federal employees to the United States; Supports the goal of protecting the safety and security of our Federal employees; and Urges that the Government seek ways to improve the safety and security of our Federal employees. I rise today to urge the passing of House Resolution 1187. Not too long ago our country suffered from the Oklahoma City bombing, one of the deadliest acts of domestic terrorism on American soil. This cowardly act of terrorism killed 168 people, 19 of them children. The victims were mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, grandparents, grandchildren, friends, and co-workers.

The bombing in Oklahoma City was a direct attack against the dedicated men and women of the Federal Civil Service. The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building housed 14 Federal agencies, and nearly 100 Federal employees lost their lives that morning. We must honor their sacrifice by remaining steadfast in our commitment to prevent future attacks on the Federal government, Federal employees, and other acts of domestic terror. I am deeply troubled by recent threats of violence against government employees. This February, an attack on Federal offices threatened the lives of 200 IRS workers and took the life of Vernon Hunter, a 20-year army Veteran who served two tours in Vietnam, a loving husband, father, grandfather, and mentor to co-workers at the IRS. The Oklahoma City bombing and the most recent attacks serve as stark reminders that threats against Federal employees may pose real dangers. They remind us of our solemn duty to protect our public servants.

After the Oklahoma City bombing, President Bill Clinton directed the Department of Justice to assess the vulnerability of Federal office

buildings. Prior to this study, no formal government-wide standards existed for Federal buildings. The IRS has recorded some 1,200 attacks on its employees since 2001. The Justice Department investigates some 300 cases per year. In March, a deranged individual walked up to the Pentagon entrance and opened fire with a semi-automatic weapon injuring two Pentagon guards. In February, a plane was flown into the IRS building in Austin, TX in an act of murder-suicide that claimed the life of a two-tour Vietnam Veteran.

With the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, the responsibility to protect our Federal facilities was transferred to the Federal Protective Service (FPS). The FPS is a federal law enforcement agency that provides integrated security and law enforcement services to federally owned and leased buildings and facilities. As a member of the Homeland Security Committee and Chairwoman of the Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee, I am committed to working with my colleagues to support federal legislation that will protect our federal employees. I support the mission of the FPS that renders federal properties safe and secure for federal employees, officials and visitors in a professional and cost effective manner by deploying a highly trained and multi-disciplined police force. As the federal agency charged with protecting and delivering integrated law enforcement and security services to facilities owned or leased by the General Services Administration, FPS employs 1,225 federal staff (including 900 law enforcement security officers, criminal investigators, police officers, and support personnel) and 15,000 contract guard staff to secure over 9,000 buildings and safeguard their occupants.

The FPS has a critical infrastructure and key resources of the United States that are essential to our nation's security, public health and safety, economic vitality and way of life. FPS protects one component of the nation's infrastructure by mitigating risk to federal facilities and their occupants.

As we remember the victims and survivors of the Oklahoma City bombing and other acts of terrorism, let us all take a moment to reflect upon the dedication and sacrifices of the men and women who work hard to keep our federal buildings secure and those of us who work in them safe. Federal workers maintain our national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests, and secure our borders, and in times of natural disaster. The more than two million civilian employees in the federal workforce deserve a reasonable degree of personal safety and security while carrying out their duties.

It is incumbent upon the Congress and the Administration to look for ways to improve their safety. I support H. Res 1187 and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1187, 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.

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1299) supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1299

Whereas there are more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers in the United States, 12 percent of whom are women;

Whereas law enforcement officers selflessly protect the people of the United States and their communities;

Whereas law enforcement officers serve the country in spite of the inherent danger of their service;

Whereas more than 18,600 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty in the United States since the first recorded police death in 1792;

Whereas 72 law enforcement officers were killed while responding to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, making that day the deadliest in law enforcement history;

Whereas 125 law enforcement officers were killed in 2009;

Whereas, on March 21, 2009, Sergeant Mark Dunakin and Officer John Hege and Sergeants Ervin Romans and Dan Sakai of the Oakland Police Department in California were shot and killed by the same gunman in two separate attacks;

Whereas, on November 29, 2009, Sergeant Mark Renniger and Officers Tina Griswold, Ronald Owens II, and Greg Richards of the Lakewood Police Department in the State of Washington were shot and killed as they sat in a coffee shop;

Whereas Public Law 87-726 designates May 15th of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the calendar week during which that Day occurs as Police Week;

Whereas section 7(m) of title 4, United States Code, requires that the United States flag be flown at half-staff on all government buildings on Peace Officers Memorial Day; and

Whereas law enforcement officers deserve the gratitude of the people of the United States for their service: Now, therefore, be it *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day;

(2) honors Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty; and

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to observe Peace Officers Memorial Day with ceremonies and respect befitting those who have risked their lives and died in service to their communities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this resolution honors our law enforcement community by supporting the observance of Peace Officers Memorial Day. Since 1962, May 15 has been recognized as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week of May 15 has been designated as Police Week.

□ 1500

For nearly 50 years, we have continued this observance as a way to honor the men and women of our Nation's law enforcement agencies. They protect our neighborhoods, our homes, and our loved ones; and we are grateful.

The men and women who dedicate their careers to our safety do so at the expense of spending long hours away from their families, putting themselves at great risk, and in too many instances, making the ultimate sacrifice.

On average, one law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty somewhere in this Nation every 53 hours. Unfortunately, since the beginning of this year we have lost 58 officers.

Despite this ever-present danger, these dedicated professionals continue to make sacrifices for their communities without asking thanks or praise. The law enforcement professionals and police officers who toil in our communities across this Nation deserve our unwavering support and our thankful recognition.

I commend our colleague from Texas (Mr. POE) for introducing this important resolution.

I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1299, supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day. Every year the President issues a proclamation naming May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day. Of course, in the days leading up to May 15, thousands of peace officers and their families come to Washington, D.C. They come here to remember their fellow officers and their loved ones who have given their lives, all in the line of duty. They participate in conferences and memorial services. They honor the memories of those who worked so hard to protect our communities and, in the end, made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives for the rest of us.

Americans have been protected by peace officers for 217 years, ever since the early settlers in Boston, Massachusetts. They established a program called Night Watch to safeguard those Bostonians.

Not a day goes by that law enforcement officers do not face danger in their mission to keep us safe from crime, acts of violence, and now terrorism. On May 17, 1792, New York City's Deputy Sheriff Isaac Smith became the first recorded peace officer to be killed in the line of duty.