

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on House Appropriations, reported this legislation, which I introduced on July 1, 2010, to improve the operation of certain facilities and programs of the House.

The bill will make two substantial changes into law. First it will make into permanent law a temporary provision allowing active-duty Armed Forces personnel working in House office buildings as congressional liaisons to use the House staff gym like any other staff member. This practice, which is currently in place, is working fine and we propose to make it permanent for the benefit of personnel who might prefer to exercise here rather than travel to the Pentagon or elsewhere.

□ 1350

Second, the bill includes language to eliminate needless bookkeeping related to the House Child Care Center. The account supporting the Center is not a true revolving fund, meaning that at the end of every year accountants must seek approval to transfer the unobligated balances forward to the new year and work with the Treasury to implement what has become an annual ritual.

Converting the account to a true revolving fund will save House and Treasury staff time better spent elsewhere. This change will have no effect on the Center's staff, parents, or the children.

Finally, the bill includes two technical corrections and complies with the PAYGO rules.

I know of no controversy on this bill. Since H.R. 5682 affects only the House, I trust that the Senate will pass it quickly without change. I urge an "aye" vote.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution providing for administrative provisions affecting the House.

This resolution simply authorizes that any Active Duty member of the Armed Forces who is assigned to a congressional liaison office in the House of Representatives may obtain membership and access to the House staff fitness center. Given the sacrifices demonstrated by the members of our military each and every day, and their requirement to stay in good physical condition, this is entirely appropriate.

The resolution also establishes, as was mentioned by our chairman, a revolving fund for the House Child Care Center, and it codifies current practices relating to the CAO's allocation, care, and repair of furniture for use in the House.

These are all commonsense and appropriate changes, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5682.

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

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5682, 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.

FALLEN HEROES FLAG ACT OF 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 415) to provide Capitol-flown flags to the immediate family of fire fighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, and other rescue workers who are killed in the line of duty.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 415

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 "Fallen Heroes Flag Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. PROVIDING CAPITOL-FLOWN FLAGS FOR FAMILIES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RESCUE WORKERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the request of the immediate family of a fire fighter, law enforcement officer, emergency technician, or other rescue worker who died in the line of duty, the Representative of the family may provide the family with a Capitol-flown flag, together with the certificate described in subsection (c).

(b) NO COST TO FAMILY.—A flag provided under this section shall be provided at no cost to the family.

(c) CERTIFICATE.—The certificate described in this subsection is a certificate which is signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Representative providing the flag, and which contains an expression of sympathy from the House of Representatives for the family involved, as prepared and developed by the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "Capitol-flown flag" means a United States flag flown over the United States Capitol in honor of the deceased individual for whom such flag is requested; and

(2) the term "Representative" includes a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

SEC. 3. REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the date of the enactment of

this Act, the Clerk shall issue regulations for carrying out this Act, including regulations to establish procedures (including any appropriate forms, guidelines, and accompanying certificates) for requesting a Capitol-flown flag.

(b) APPROVAL BY COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION.—The regulations issued by the Clerk under subsection (a) shall take effect upon approval by the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for fiscal year 2009 and each succeeding fiscal year such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date of its enactment, except that no flags may be provided under section 2 until the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives approves the regulations issued by the Clerk of the House of Representatives under section 3.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous matter in the RECORD on the consideration of this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there are brave public servants who selflessly put their lives at risk for the protection of others. On rare occasions, these men and women make the ultimate sacrifice. This bill will provide for a simple and eloquent tribute to these fallen heroes.

H.R. 415 would provide a flag flown over the United States Capitol to the immediate family of a firefighter, law enforcement officer, emergency medical technician, and other rescue workers who die in the line of duty. The flag would be presented by the House Member representing the family.

The family would also receive a certificate signed by the Speaker of the House and the Representative presenting the flag, and prepared by the Clerk of the House, expressing sympathy on behalf of the House of Representatives. There would be no cost at all to the family.

A United States flag flown over the Capitol is a simple expression of national sympathy and gratitude. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in recognizing the heroism of these amazing men and women by supporting H.R. 415, the Fallen Heroes Flag Act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 415, authored by the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), allows the Representative of the immediate family of deceased emergency personnel who are killed in the line of duty to provide the family with a Capitol-flown flag at their request. These families would also receive a certificate bearing an expression of condolence signed by the Speaker, as well as by the Representative providing the flag.

Nine years later, the tragic events of September 11 are still a painful reminder of the sacrifices made daily by our first responders, including our firefighters, our law enforcement officers, our emergency technicians, and other rescue workers. These fallen heroes and their families deserve our appreciation, our thanks, and our honor for their sacrifice, and this resolution in a simple way will enable us to show that gratitude.

I urge my colleagues to join in supporting H.R. 415.

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

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 415, the Fallen Heroes Flag Act.

I introduced this legislation to honor the brave rescue workers and law enforcement agents who lost their lives protecting their fellow Americans. While we cannot make up for the loss of these heroes, my bill will allow members of Congress to extend a gesture of sympathy and gratitude to the immediate family.

The Fallen Heroes Flag Act allows members of Congress to honor any deceased fire fighter, law enforcement officer, emergency technician, or other rescue worker who died in the line of duty by providing to the family, at their request, a flag flown over the United States Capitol. The flag will be accompanied by a certificate expressing a message of sympathy, that is signed by the Speaker of the House and the Representative providing the flag.

Our rescue workers and law enforcement agents commit selfless acts every day for our safety. It is truly a tragedy when one of their lives is lost while acting to save another's. They should be honored for their heroism and my legislation provides that opportunity. I am pleased that the Fallen Heroes Flag Act has been brought to the House floor. I fully support this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I also would like to thank my friend, PETER KING from New York, for this thoughtful bill and my ranking member for his cooperation and support. I urge a "yes" vote for again this courteous bill to our fallen heroes that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 415.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1400

SECURING AIRCRAFT COCKPITS AGAINST LASERS ACT OF 2010

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5810) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for aiming laser pointers at airplanes, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5810

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 "Securing Aircraft Cockpits Against Lasers Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST AIMING A LASER POINTER AT AN AIRCRAFT.

(a) OFFENSE.—Chapter 2 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 39A. Aiming a laser pointer at an aircraft

"(a) Whoever knowingly aims the beam of a laser pointer at an aircraft in the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States, or at the flight path of such an aircraft, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

"(b) As used in this section, the term 'laser pointer' means any device designed or used to amplify electromagnetic radiation by stimulated emission that emits a beam designed to be used by the operator as a pointer or highlighter to indicate, mark, or identify a specific position, place, item, or object.

"(c) This section does not prohibit aiming a beam of a laser pointer at an aircraft, or the flight path of such an aircraft, by—

"(1) an authorized individual in the conduct of research and development or flight test operations conducted by an aircraft manufacturer, the Federal Aviation Administration, or any other person authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct such research and development or flight test operations;

"(2) members or elements of the Department of Defense or Department of Homeland Security acting in an official capacity for the purpose of research, development, operations, testing or training; or

"(3) by an individual using a laser emergency signaling device to send an emergency distress signal.

"(d) The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, may provide by regulation, after public notice and comment, such additional exceptions to this section, as may be necessary and appropriate. The Attorney General shall provide written notification of any proposed regulations under this section to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House and Senate, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the House, and the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation in the Senate not less than 90 days before such regulations become final."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 2 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 39 the following new item:

"39A. Aiming a laser pointer at an aircraft."

SEC. 3. COMPLIANCE WITH PAYGO.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUMMINGS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5810 establishes criminal penalties for knowingly aiming a laser pointer at an aircraft or its flight path.

Incidents involving lasers aimed at aircraft have raised concerns over the potential threat to aviation safety and national security. Some are concerned that terrorists might use high-powered lasers to, among other things, incapacitate pilots. There is also concern that laser devices can distract or temporarily incapacitate pilots during critical phases of a flight.

Lasers pose a safety hazard to flight operations. Even brief exposure to a relatively low-powered laser beam can cause discomfort and temporarily affect the pilot's vision. The visual distractions of a laser can also cause a pilot to become disoriented or lose situational awareness while flying.

High-powered laser devices can incapacitate pilots and inflict eye injuries when viewed at closer ranges. In fact, the National Transportation Safety Board documented two cases in which pilots sustained eye injuries and were incapacitated during critical phases of a flight.

In one of those cases, after a laser was pointed at a pilot's plane, he experienced a burning sensation and tearing in his eyes. A subsequent eye examination revealed multiple flash burns in the pilot's cornea. The FAA researchers have compiled a data base of more than 400 incidences between 1990 and 2005 in which pilots have been startled, distracted, temporarily blinded, or disoriented by laser exposure.

Government officials at FAA, Defense Department, and Department of Homeland Security are exempted from the prohibition of this bill, as are individuals using lasers to send an emergency distress signal.