

members, and, last year, they did 100,000 different community service projects with 4.5 million volunteer hours.

They are coming to Tennessee in June for their convention. We look forward to welcoming them and to celebrating doing good for other people.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Senate's action yesterday on the passage of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, and I urge the House leadership to bring this legislation up for final passage.

The measures included in this trafficking package will provide survivors of human trafficking the desperately needed resources and services to recover and rebuild their lives and to put traffickers and buyers behind bars.

I am thrilled this package of bills also includes three pieces of legislation I am proud to be leading in the House, including the HERO Act, which trains wounded military veterans to aid law enforcement in investigating child exploitation; the Rape Survivor Child Custody Act, which encourages States to allow a woman to terminate the parental rights of a rapist; and my friend Representative RENEE ELLMERS' bill, which I am proud to colead, to train health care providers in identifying and assisting victims of trafficking.

Survivors of child exploitation, rape, and trafficking have waited long enough. They need health, housing, and legal services now. They need legal and civil protections now. I urge the House to bring the Senate's Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act up for a vote without delay.

PETE WHEELER AND JAY SHAW

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember two great civil servants from the great State of Georgia who passed away this week: Pete Wheeler, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service, and former State representative and transportation board member Jay Shaw.

Mr. Wheeler served in the Army infantry and in the Georgia Army National Guard, retiring as a brigadier general and receiving several awards for his service, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars Silver and Gold Medals of Merit. He was a longtime attorney who used his past military service to advocate on behalf of veterans in Georgia. Mr. Wheeler served as VA commissioner for 61 years. If you couldn't get

it done any other way, you just called Pete.

Mr. Shaw began his public service as mayor of Lakeland for 10 years. He also served in the Georgia House of Representatives, supporting improvements to the transportation system in Georgia. Mr. Shaw was an active member of the Georgia State Transportation Board and served as its chairman in the past.

These two Georgians did so much for our great State, and I offer my condolences to their families and friends, and I would like to thank them for their service.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this morning, we will be addressing the issue of cybersecurity, one of the responsibilities of the Homeland Security Department and of the Homeland Security Committee.

In a briefing, many of us had the opportunity to hear a number of challenging and difficult representations regarding the gyrocopter. Let me simply say that the responsibility of this Nation and of this government is to protect its citizens, and I am appalled at what seems to be the inability or the inaction of certain agencies.

I stand today on the floor of the House to say that it is intolerable and unacceptable when tourists and Americans come to their capital. I want them to expect the highest grade of security for their families, for their peace of mind. The Commander in Chief resides in Washington, D.C. That Commander in Chief has the right to have the highest degree of security.

I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that we immediately demand a response from the appropriate agencies so that nothing of this kind happens ever again.

CONGRATULATING STUDENTS FROM HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. MASSIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to congratulate the students from Highlands High School in Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

These hard-working students in my district recently won the We the People State-level competition and will represent the State of Kentucky in the national competition this weekend in Washington, D.C.

The We the People program is a project of the Center for Civic Education. It works to further students' knowledge of constitutional history and government, and it gives students a foundation in civics education that will prepare them to be effective future leaders. The program sponsors student

debates and discussions of issues, such as the similarities between the United States Congress and the British Parliament, the differences between the Constitution and the Articles of Confederation, and the merits of the anti-Federalist arguments versus those of the Federalists.

I am proud of these students' hard work and dedication. I wish them all the best in their competition this weekend and in all of their future endeavors.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, as I stand before you today, it is with a heavy heart that I think back to the events and to the atrocities that began 100 years ago.

This week, millions of us will gather around the world to mark the centennial of the Armenian genocide. Today, I stand to remember the 1.5 million Armenians who perished from 1915 to 1923.

As a crime against all humanity, the Armenian genocide has left an indelible mark on all of us. Unfortunately, Turkey, the successor to the Ottoman Empire, has never accepted responsibility for these atrocities. Instead, Turkey continues to hide behind the bullying tactics that conceal violations of human rights.

As a world leader and as a country that stands for freedom and justice for all, we must recognize the events that occurred and work to change the policies that ignore the actions of the Ottoman Empire against the people of Armenia. The continued campaign of denial sets a dangerous precedent that makes future atrocities and genocides more likely. As the greatest force for human dignity in the world, the United States is long overdue to stand with the Armenian people. We cannot continue to play politics with something that is this important.

For me, it is incredibly disappointing that the administration will not follow in the footsteps of many world leaders, most recently those of Germany, Austria, and the Vatican, who have recognized this genocide on its 100th anniversary.

CYBERSECURITY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during a time when our digital world is so insecure, new policies are needed to help defend against cyber attacks. The attacks against Sony Pictures, Target, and Anthem are just a few of the most recent examples.

According to a report released by the Center for Strategic and International

Studies, cyber crimes in 2013 cost more than \$100 billion in the United States and, roughly, half a trillion dollars globally.

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to resolve these problems by working together to improve our Nation's cyber defenses rather than having President Obama try to solve the problem one executive order at a time, and that is exactly what the House is doing this week. Determined to protect the American people from future cyber attacks, last night, the House passed one bipartisan bill—and it will vote on another today—which seeks to balance security while protecting privacy.

Mr. Speaker, after years of inaction, the White House has indicated it is willing to work with Congress on this issue, signaling that we may finally put the policies in place that are necessary to protect our digital world in the 21st century.

□ 0915

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PROTECTION ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill, H.R. 1731.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RATCLIFFE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 212 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1731.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0916

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1731) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance multi-directional sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and strengthen privacy and civil liberties protections, and for other purposes, with Mr. WOODALL in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCaul) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to bring to the floor H.R. 1731, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act, a proprietary, prosecutorial bill that we desperately need to safeguard our digital networks.

I would like to commend the subcommittee chairman, Mr. RATCLIFFE, for his work on this bill as well as our minority counterparts, including Ranking Member THOMPSON and subcommittee Ranking Member RICHMOND for their joint work on this bill. This has been a noteworthy, bipartisan effort. I would also like to thank House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman DEVIN NUNES and Ranking Member ADAM SCHIFF for their input and collaboration. Lastly, I would like to thank Committee on the Judiciary Chairman GOODLATTE and Ranking Member CONYERS for their contribution.

Make no mistake, we are in the middle of a silent crisis. At this very moment, our Nation's businesses are being robbed, and sensitive government information is being stolen. We are under siege by a faceless enemy whose tracks are covered in cyberspace.

Sophisticated breaches at companies like Anthem, Target, Neiman Marcus, Home Depot, and JPMorgan have compromised the personal information of millions of private citizens. Nation-states like Iran and North Korea have launched digital bombs to get revenge at U.S.-based companies, while others like China are stealing intellectual property. We recently witnessed brazen cyber assaults against the White House and the State Department, which put sensitive government information at risk.

In the meantime, our adversaries have been developing the tools to shut down everything from power grids to water systems so they can cripple our economy and weaken our ability to defend the United States.

This bill will allow us to turn the tide against our enemies and ramp up our defenses by allowing for greater cyber threat information sharing. This bill will strengthen the Department of Homeland Security's National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, or NCCIC. The NCCIC is a primary civilian interface for exchanging cyber threat information, and for good reason. It is not a cyber regulator. It is not looking to prosecute anyone, and it is not military or a spy agency. Its sole purpose, Mr. Chairman, is to prevent and respond to cyber attacks against our public and private networks while aggressively protecting Americans' privacy.

Right now we are in a pre-9/11 moment in cyberspace. In the same way legal barriers and turf wars kept us from connecting the dots before 9/11, the lack of cyber threat information sharing makes us vulnerable to an attack. Companies are afraid to share because they do not feel they have the adequate legal protection to do so.

H.R. 1731 removes those legal barriers and creates a safe harbor, which will encourage companies to voluntarily exchange information about attacks against their networks. This will allow both the government and private sector to spot digital attacks earlier and keep malicious actors outside of our networks and away from information that Americans expect to be defended.

This bill also puts privacy and civil liberties first. It requires that personal information of our citizens be protected before it changes hands—whether it is provided to the government or exchanged between companies—so private citizens do not have their sensitive data exposed.

Significantly, both industry and privacy groups have announced their support for this legislation because they recognize that we need to work together urgently to combat the cyber threat to this country.

Today, we have a dangerously incomplete picture of the online war being waged against us, and it is costing Americans their time, money, and jobs. It is time for us to safeguard our digital frontier. This legislation is a necessary and vital step to do exactly that.

Mr. Chairman, before I reserve the balance of my time, I would like to enter into the RECORD an exchange of letters between the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, Mr. GOODLATTE, and myself, recognizing the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on the Judiciary in H.R. 1731.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, April 21, 2015.

Hon. MICHAEL McCaul,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN McCaul: I am writing with respect to H.R. 1731, the "National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015." As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 1731 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to waive consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 1731 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 1731.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.