

people, the people still cannot drink their water. It is a disaster.

Typically, as Americans, we come together to act. It is this body that brings us together as a Congress to act to protect Americans in their moment of greatest need. Yet, Republicans in Congress fail to do their job.

My bill, the Families of Flint Act, would provide relief evenly divided between the Federal and State government. No hearings in committee, no votes on the floor of the House of Representatives. The American people deserve a Congress that will do its job and will act on their interests.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we immediately take up my bill.

HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT ANSWERS THE ALARM

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, a chemical warehouse in my Texas district exploded into a startling inferno. Fiery containers of chemicals shot into the air like rockets. The smoke and heat were intense. But the Houston Fire Department quickly answered the alarm.

Mr. Speaker, over 200 firefighters from 32 fire stations responded to the hellish inferno. Spring Branch Elementary and nearby homes were evacuated. But the smoke and fire were conquered. The school and homes were saved. Not one person was injured.

Mr. Speaker, firefighters are a special breed. They risk their lives to save our lives. They restore order from chaos. These firefighters are to be thanked and appreciated. Firefighter courage and dedication to protecting us is part of what makes them a special breed.

While others flee in haste of impending danger, the firefighter, with sirens, red lights, horns, red and white trucks, charge into the jaws of heat, smoke, and fire to defeat and conquer danger.

Mr. Speaker, Houston firefighters answered the alarm—they always answer the alarm.

And that is just the way it is.

SALUTING HOUSTON MAYOR SYLVESTER TURNER

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a caring mayor, the mayor of the city of Houston, Mayor Sylvester Turner.

Over the last couple of months, which is the first of his term, many challenges have confronted his administration, one of which was the terrible, devastating floods of mid-April when so many thousands, many of them mothers and children, were displaced in my congressional district. Because of those terrible storms, \$400

million of cars were lost, people lost their jobs, and businesses were destroyed.

Mayor Turner continued to be that caring, steady hand working across political lines, working with the county judge, working with council members, and the Federal Government. One thing that he steadily did was listen to the council and the advice of his staff as I sat in meetings, taking ideas, establishing a relief fund, joining now with the Osteens in Lakewood, and having this wonderful concert to continue to provide relief, but yet showing the caring and loving nurturing of a father.

In the midst of all of this, he lost a dear brother, a Vietnam vet. But steady, strong, and determined, he continued to nurture those who could not help themselves.

What a pleasure to be able to work with a mayor, one who is ready to listen and to be able to answer the concerns of a constituency, but make hard decisions.

I salute you, Mayor Turner, as someone who cares about our city, and works with all of us to make their lives better and our city the best.

ONLY 6 PERCENT OF AMERICANS TRUST THE MEDIA

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans' confidence in the national media continues to erode.

A Media Insight Project poll found that only 6 percent now say they have a great deal of confidence in the media. Americans are rightfully skeptical of the news they receive, as they believe it is riddled with inaccuracies and bias.

Nearly 90 percent say it is important for the media to get their facts correct in their news reports, which they often do not. Many said the media coverage of a particular event was one-sided. One respondent commented that, "I'm also a bit scared for what other things they have gotten wrong or only given half-truths to."

Media bias is both real and unfortunate. Americans will continue to distrust the national liberal media until the media stops telling them what to think.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 10, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of

the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 10, 2016 at 9:26 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4238.

That the Senate passed S. 546.

That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 457.

That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 458.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

FALLEN HEROES FLAG ACT OF 2016

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2755) to provide Capitol-flown flags to the immediate family of firefighters, law enforcement officers, members of rescue squads or ambulance crews, and public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2755

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 2016".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

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

(2) the terms "chaplain", "firefighter", "law enforcement officer", "member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew", and "public agency" have the meanings given such terms in section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b);

(3) the term "immediate family member", with respect to an individual, means—

(A) the spouse, parent, brother, sister, or child of the individual or a person to whom the individual stands in loco parentis; or

(B) any other person related to the individual by blood or marriage;

(4) the term “public safety officer” means an individual serving a public agency in an official capacity, with or without compensation, as a law enforcement officer, as a firefighter, or as a chaplain; and

(5) the term “Representative” includes a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

SEC. 3. PROVIDING CAPITOL-FLOWN FLAGS FOR FAMILIES OF FALLEN HEROES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the request of an immediate family member of a firefighter, law enforcement officer, member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew, or public safety officer who died in the line of duty, the Representative or Senator of the family may provide to the family a Capitol-flown flag, together with the certificate described in subsection (c).

(b) NO COST TO FAMILY.—A Capitol-flown 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, or the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Senator, providing the Capitol-flown flag, as applicable, and which contains an expression of sympathy for the family involved from the House of Representatives or the Senate, as applicable.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Architect of the Capitol 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) REVIEW.—The regulations issued under subsection (a) shall take effect upon approval by the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2022 such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act, to be derived from amounts appropriated in each such fiscal year for the operation of the Architect of the Capitol, except that the aggregate amount appropriated to carry out this Act for all such fiscal years may not exceed \$40,000.

SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act, except that a Capitol-flown flag may not be provided under section 3 until the regulations issued under section 4(a) take effect in accordance with section 4(b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 Florida?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2755, the Fallen Heroes Flag Act. The bill before us would allow Members of Congress to honor our heroes with a United States flag flown over this Capitol. These brave individuals include firefighters, law enforcement officers, and members of rescue squads and ambulance crews. The measure gives us the opportunity to express our Nation's gratitude towards those who have answered the call to serve and protect our communities.

Our Nation's flag flown in their honor would also include a congressional certificate signed by both the Speaker of the House and the individual's Representative or the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Senator who is providing the flag for the family.

When most people are running away from danger, our Nation's first responders run towards it. Whether it is a firefighter rushing into a burning building, an EMT responding at high speed to save someone's life, or a police officer pursuing a routine traffic stop, the job puts these individuals in harm's way on a daily basis.

As our local communities know all too well, in far too many cases, brave men and women have paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe in America. I stand here today with my colleagues to thank each responder for their service and dedication to their communities. They answer our calls for help. As an institution and as a nation, it is right for us to remember the sacrifice and honor that these individuals make for America's families.

As a 38-year veteran of law enforcement myself, it is a special honor to be able to stand here today and usher this legislation forward. I want to thank all of those who helped make this possible.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend from Florida, a former sheriff himself.

I rise today in strong support of S. 2755, the Fallen Heroes Flag Act of 2016.

I want to thank, also, Congressman PETER KING, who has been a strong supporter of the first responder community and for championing this issue for many, many years. I want to thank Senator ROY BLUNT and Senator CHUCK SCHUMER for helping move this bill through the Senate.

This bipartisan legislation will create a program to provide flags flown over the United States Capitol to the family members of public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty at no cost to the family.

Our first responders make tremendous sacrifices to keep our communities safe. Should one of those brave men or women make the ultimate sac-

rifice, the least we can do to recognize their contributions to society, show our gratitude for their service, and express our sympathy to their families for their loss is present them with a flag flown over the United States Capitol.

This bill has the strong support of the National Fraternal Order of Police and the Sergeants Benevolent Association.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support swift passage of this bipartisan legislation so we can send it on to the President for his signature.

Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair of law enforcement issues in the Congress, I cannot support this enough. This is a very important piece of legislation and will do a lot in terms of goodwill.

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

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his support. We in law enforcement—and I still say “we in law enforcement”—do appreciate it any time Congress reaches out and does something positive for our law enforcement families, even though it is after the fact.

This is one of those times where, as sheriff, I had to preside over in-the-line-of-duty deaths. As a rookie police officer outside of Chicago, my first year on the job, one of the guys that I went to the academy with was shot and killed. I moved to Florida and became a deputy sheriff and rose up the ranks to sheriff.

One of the things that I always worried about as a father and as a husband was: What am I leaving to my family? How are they going to be taken care of in the future? And what is going on in this country today in regards to belittling law enforcement? Trust me, we make mistakes, and I think that reasonable people understand that; but when you condemn a whole profession, it is unconscionable.

I think this is the type of thing that we need to do. I do appreciate this is very bipartisan in nature and that it is really lifting up all of our first responders. We think back to 9/11, when those firemen and police officers rushed into the Twin Towers and those that lost their lives as others were leaving the towers toward safety. They did the unthinkable, and that is to rush into a burning building. Or they rush in somewhere where they know there is an armed intruder. They do it on a daily basis. They don't ask for much, but we as Members of Congress really stand up for them and their families by this simple act.

This is not a huge, huge thing, but I will tell you what; to a grieving family, it is a small token of the appreciation that the United States of America, this Congress and the Senate, can bestow on a family in their deepest sorrow. It is not going to bring back their loved one, but I will tell you, they are going to look at that flag and remember the

fallen and how great a person they were.

So it is not just what we do today; it is really about what has happened. The gentleman from New Jersey talked about the Senate; and Mr. KING, from this House, from New York, moved this legislation through. It has been a pleasure to stand here today, to come here today and talk for all those who can't talk for themselves; they can't speak for themselves.

My 38 years in law enforcement was probably the best time of my life because I was actually doing something and protecting people on a regular basis. I can't think of a greater honor than to fly a flag of this Nation over this Capitol and give that to the grieving family of a fallen first responder. Mr. Speaker, knowing that this institution is behind them, so stand the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2755, the "Fallen Heroes Flag Act of 2016," which allows Members and Senators, at the request of an immediate family member of a fallen emergency responder, to have a flag flown above the United States Capitol in their memory.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I am intimately aware, as are my colleagues, of the great sacrifices made by our emergency responders.

This is why I am proud that earlier this Congress the House passed H.R. 2795, the FRIENDS Act, which I introduced.

I introduced the FRIENDS Act because it embodied the important and fundamental idea that we have an obligation to ensure that the first responders who protect our loved ones in emergencies, have the peace of mind that comes from knowing that their loved ones are safe while they do their duty.

S. 2755 and the FRIENDS Act embody the spirit of bipartisanship that is needed in this Congress.

These brave men and women who risk everything by running towards danger should be honored by this Congress by streamlining the process to have a flag flown above the U.S. Capitol in their memory.

Let us not forget the 15 brave volunteer firefighters who perished in the city of West, Texas, in 2013 when a fertilizer plant exploded.

This tragedy serves as a reminder of the risks and dangers undertaken each day by our firefighters and other first responders to keep us safe.

Since 1996 in the city of Houston there have been 20 firefighters that have lost their lives protecting others.

They are District Chief Ruben Lopez, Firefighter Steven C. Mayfield, Firefighter Lewis E. Mayo III, Firefighter Kimberly A. Smith, Captain Jay Paul Jahnke, Probationary Firefighter Kevin Wayne Kulow, Captain Grady Don Burke, Assistant Chief David Louis Moore, Captain James Arthur Harlow Sr., Captain Damion Jon Hobbs, Cadet Firefighter Cohnway Matthew Johnson, Captain Thomas William Dillion, Engineer Operator Robert Ryan Bebee, Firefighter/EMT Robert Herman Garner, IV, Captain Matthew Rena Renaud,

Firefighter Anne McCormick Sullivan, Firefighter Daniel D Groover, Captain Dwight "B.B." W Bazile, Firefighter Richard J Cano, and Cadet Steven Whitfield II.

Since 1860, 109 Houston Police officers have fallen in the line of duty.

In 2015 officer Richard K. Martin was killed when he was intentionally struck with a car when he was laying down spike strips during a pursuit.

I have on many occasions requested that U.S. Flags be flown above the Capitol in the memory of fallen first responders and presented them to the family members.

First responders are called to serve and few outside of their ranks can understand why they do the work that they do each day placing their lives in harm's way to save a stranger.

The greatest example of the selflessness of first responders was the hundreds of fire fighters, law enforcement officers, emergency management service personnel, port authority workers, and federal officers and agents who rushed into the Twin Towers on September 11th 2001, to save lives.

On that terrible day 366 first responders sacrificed their lives so others may live.

Mr. Speaker, I support S. 2755 because this bill streamlines the process to have a flag flown in the memory of the fallen emergency responders in this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2755.

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.

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE OPIOID MANAGEMENT AND INCORPORATING SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE ACT

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4063) to improve the use by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of opioids in treating veterans, to improve patient advocacy by the Secretary, and to expand the availability of complementary and integrative health, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4063

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 "Promoting Responsible Opioid Management and Incorporating Scientific Expertise Act" or the "Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act".

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT OF OPIOID SAFETY MEASURES BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) EXPANSION OF OPIOID SAFETY INITIATIVE.—

(1) INCLUSION OF ALL MEDICAL FACILITIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall expand the Opioid Safety

Initiative of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include all medical facilities of the Department.

(2) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall establish guidance that each health care provider of the Department of Veterans Affairs, before initiating opioid therapy to treat a patient as part of the comprehensive assessment conducted by the health care provider, use the Opioid Therapy Risk Report tool of the Department of Veterans Affairs (or any subsequent tool), which shall include information from the prescription drug monitoring program of each participating State as applicable, that includes the most recent information to date relating to the patient that accessed such program to assess the risk for adverse outcomes of opioid therapy for the patient, including the concurrent use of controlled substances such as benzodiazepines, as part of the comprehensive assessment conducted by the health care provider.

(3) ENHANCED STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall establish enhanced standards with respect to the use of routine and random urine drug tests for all patients before and during opioid therapy to help prevent substance abuse, dependence, and diversion, including—

(A) that such tests occur not less frequently than once each year; and

(B) that health care providers appropriately order, interpret and respond to the results from such tests to tailor pain therapy, safeguards, and risk management strategies to each patient.

(b) PAIN MANAGEMENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Opioid Safety Initiative of the Department, the Secretary shall require all employees of the Department responsible for prescribing opioids to receive education and training described in paragraph (2).

(2) EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—Education and training described in this paragraph is education and training on pain management and safe opioid prescribing practices for purposes of safely and effectively managing patients with chronic pain, including education and training on the following:

(A) The implementation of and full compliance with the VA/DOD Clinical Practice Guideline for Management of Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain, including any update to such guideline.

(B) The use of evidence-based pain management therapies, including cognitive-behavioral therapy, non-opioid alternatives, and non-drug methods and procedures to managing pain and related health conditions including medical devices approved or cleared by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of patients with chronic pain and complementary alternative medicines.

(C) Screening and identification of patients with substance use disorder, including drug-seeking behavior, before prescribing opioids, assessment of risk potential for patients developing an addiction, and referral of patients to appropriate addiction treatment professionals if addiction is identified or strongly suspected.

(D) Communication with patients on the potential harm associated with the use of opioids and other controlled substances, including the need to safely store and dispose of supplies relating to the use of opioids and other controlled substances.

(E) Such other education and training as the Secretary considers appropriate to ensure that veterans receive safe and high-quality pain management care from the Department.