

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7227. I am proud of the product and of the process.

I thank the gentleman from South Carolina for all of his help and all of his great work.

Let me also thank Chairman BRADY for his tireless work and commitment to this bill. From start to finish, he worked with us to advance good, responsible policy. This afternoon, I again thank him, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN) for serving as partners in leading this effort.

I also thank our staff again for their good and great work. They refused to give up; they refused to give in. They worked together on behalf of the American taxpayers and of the American people, and they did a great and superb job.

For over a year, the Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee hosted hearings and roundtables. We listened and asked questions. We asked Democratic and Republican Members to share their concerns and ideas. We reached out to taxpayers and advocates. We negotiated. We took our time, and, Mr. Speaker, I believe that we did it and we did it right.

Together, we developed a bill that improves the independent appeals process and taxpayer services. We worked together to ensure that taxpayers—especially those who are low-income, disabled, and senior citizens—receive fair, quality, and timely help and support.

For these reasons, I am especially proud of our work to prevent private debt collectors from excessively targeting low-income taxpayers. As a result, our bill will ease the burden on those who are already struggling to keep a roof over their head and food on the table.

From the beginning, we committed to bipartisanship, and we refused to abandon our course.

I believe that this experience took our subcommittee and our institution back to our roots. Mr. Speaker, at every crossroad, we remembered the lessons from the past and chose to put the taxpayer first.

The process was transparent and inclusive, and the product is strong and timely.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7227, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. MASSIE. 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, further pro-

ceedings on this motion will be postponed.

VEHICULAR TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2018

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 4227) an act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to examine what actions the Department of Homeland Security is undertaking to combat the threat of vehicular terrorism, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

(1) On page 2, line 16, insert “and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation” after “Affairs”.

(2) On page 3, strike lines 17 through 20 and insert the following:

(2) *VEHICULAR TERRORISM.*—The term “vehicular terrorism” means an action that utilizes automotive transportation to commit terrorism (as defined in section 2(18) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101(18))).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4227, the Vehicular Terrorism Prevention Act, introduced by the gentleman from Ohio, Representative LATTA.

H.R. 4227 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to examine the threat of vehicular terrorism and develop a strategy to improve DHS support for the efforts of emergency responders and the private sector to prevent, mitigate, and respond to such a threat.

Terror groups, including ISIS and al-Qaida, have urged supporters to carry out attacks in their home countries using any means necessary, including vehicular ramming. Terrorists and inspired homegrown extremists have heeded this direction and have carried out vehicular-based attacks in the past several years, including in France, England, Spain, Ohio, and New York City.

DHS has existing resources and programs that can be better utilized to prepare frontline personnel in local communities to address the threat of

vehicular terrorism. H.R. 4227 requires the Secretary to develop a plan on how to improve and increase these capabilities.

This bill passed the House on March 22 of this year. The Senate made minor changes to this measure and passed it with unanimous consent on December 18.

I thank Representative LATTA for his work on this important measure, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge the House to concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 4227, the Vehicular Terrorism Prevention Act of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the Senate amendments to H.R. 4227. They are technical in nature and would enhance H.R. 4227, a bill to require the Department of Homeland Security to report to Congress on what it is doing to help emergency responders and private sector partners counter the threat of vehicular terrorism. It would also explain how DHS is using existing DHS programs like grants, information sharing, training, and research to help in this effort.

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

□ 1230

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the Senate amendment to my bill, H.R. 4227, the Vehicular Terrorism Prevention Act. It previously passed the House by a vote of 417-2 and was amended by the Senate to make simple technical corrections.

Over the past several years, we have seen an increased frequency of terrorists around the world using vehicles, oftentimes rental vans or trucks, to commit violence. The United States has not been immune to these attacks as we saw in New York City at the end of last year when a terrorist killed 8 people and injured 11.

This bipartisan legislation will ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is doing their due diligence to guard against attacks like this in the future. It would require the DHS Secretary to assess the activities the Department is undertaking to combat the threat of vehicular terrorism and submit a strategy to Congress on its findings and recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman MCCAUL, Ranking Member THOMPSON, Senator BILL CASSIDY, and the staffs of both the House and Senate committees for their work in advancing this legislation. I urge my colleagues to join me in concurring with the Senate amendment to H.R. 4227.

Again, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

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

Mr. Speaker, as threats to our homeland continue to evolve and as violent extremists seek to exploit soft targets, the risks posed to our innocent bystanders from vehicular terrorism continues to grow. A vote today to concur with the Senate amendment to H.R. 4227 is a vote to bolster preparedness and response to these emerging threats.

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

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 4227.

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. MASSIE. 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

STEPHEN MICHAEL GLEASON CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2652) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Stephen Michael Gleason.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2652

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 “Stephen Michael Gleason Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Stephen “Steve” Gleason was born March 19, 1977, in Spokane, Washington to Mike and Gail Gleason.

(2) Steve attended Gonzaga Preparatory School for high school where he excelled as both a football and baseball player.

(3) In 1995, Steve enrolled at Washington State University where he was a 2-sport athlete for the baseball and football teams and helped the Cougars football team advance to the 1997 Rose Bowl.

(4) In 2000, Steve signed a professional football contract with the Indianapolis Colts of the National Football League as an undrafted free agent but later joined the New Orleans Saints in November of that same season.

(5) Steve would go on to play 7 more seasons as a member of the New Orleans Saints.

(6) Steve will always be remembered for his blocked punt on September 25, 2006, against the Atlanta Falcons, the night the Louisiana Superdome reopened for the first time after Hurricane Katrina in a game the Saints would win 23 to 3.

(7) In January, 2011 Steve was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS, considered a terminal neuro-muscular disease.

(8) Following his diagnosis, Steve, with the loving support of his wife, Michel, began a mission to show that patients can not only live but thrive after a diagnosis of ALS and established The Gleason Initiative Foundation also known simply as “Team Gleason”.

(9) At the time of his diagnosis, however, Steve said there will be “No White Flags”, which has become the mantra of Team Gleason.

(10) The Gleason Initiative Foundation helps provide individuals with neuro-muscular diseases or injuries with leading edge technology, equipment and services, raises global awareness about ALS to find solutions and an end to the disease, and has helped hundreds of people with ALS experience life adventures they never thought possible after their diagnosis.

(11) Steve’s story and mission have been told by the NFL Network, ESPN, HBO, ABC, CBS, CNN, and many local media outlets, as well as in a 2016 documentary titled “Gleason”, which was heralded at the Sundance Film Festival and premiered across the country with Variety calling the production “an emotional powerhouse”. The documentary won several awards, including the 2016 Washington, D.C. Area Film Critics Association Award for Best Documentary.

(12) Steve was named one of two Sports Illustrated’s Inspirations of the Year in 2014, has been a keynote speaker for Microsoft and at two United Nations sponsored Social Innovation Summits, and received the 2015 George S. Halas Courage Award, given to a NFL player, coach or staff member who overcomes the most adversity to succeed.

(13) Steve helped advocate for the Steve Gleason Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-40; 129 Stat. 441), and the Steve Gleason Enduring Voices Act of 2017, H.R. 2465, 115th Congress (2017), which permanently ensures people living with diseases such as ALS have access to speech generating devices regardless of their setting, whether at home or a healthcare institution.

(14) In 2014, Steve and Team Gleason hosted a global summit to bring together researchers, patients, caregivers, and all ALS stakeholders to create a plan to ultimately end ALS. That summit resulted in the single largest coordinated and collaborative ALS research project in the world, Answer ALS, which brings together nearly two dozen research institutions, 1,000 patients and 20,000,000,000 data points that are important to the project and that will define the unknown pathways that will lead to treatments or finally a cure.

(15) In 2015, Steve and Microsoft worked together to create a method for people who are completely paralyzed to navigate their power wheelchairs with their eyes. Today, Steve, Microsoft and all wheelchair manufacturers are working collaboratively to make it widely available to all who need this technology. In addition, Microsoft has also made eye tracking technology part of all Windows 10 products across the globe.

(16) In 2011, 10 months after his diagnosis, Steve and Michel made their most significant accomplishment, becoming parents to their son Rivers.

(17) Steve and Michel Gleason continue to fight to find a solution for ALS so they can share many years together and as parents to Rivers.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on

behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design to Stephen Michael Gleason.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this important bill has wide bipartisan support, and I urge all Members to support this legislation.

Mr. Gleason who was a former player with the New Orleans Saints, has done significant work in the area of ALS—in ALS education and advocacy and its damaging effects.

I, like many people in this Chamber and many people across the country, have been touched by this personally, with friends or family members, and we know the ravages that occur with this horrible disease, ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation, the Stephen Michael Gleason Congressional Gold Medal Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2652 and its House companion sponsored by my friend, Representative CEDRIC RICHMOND, which awards a Congressional Gold Medal to Stephen Michael Gleason, whose tireless work for people living with ALS should be honored.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND), the sponsor of the House version of this bill.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my colleague, Mr. CLAY from St. Louis, and my colleague from Michigan. I understand the difficulty in saying very loud the “New Orleans