

Lieutenant LeTourneau tragically died Saturday evening, giving his life protecting his community while battling a row house fire in subfreezing temperatures in the city of Philadelphia.

Matt graduated from Cardinal O'Hara High School in 1993 in Delaware County, and he served 11 years as a member of the Philadelphia Fire Department. He joined the Springfield Fire Company in 1991 at the age of 16, and he served and continued to serve as an instructor at the Delaware County Emergency Services Training Center, where he was praised by his colleagues for his skill and the knowledge that he passed on to them about how to keep themselves safe.

He served his community with dedication, commitment, and courage, his colleagues said. "We took a big loss in the fire service," J.J. Bonsall, one of his closest friends said. "He was one of the greatest firefighters we know."

He was also a participant in something called Redpaw Emergency Relief Team, making sure that animals that are harmed in fires have a safe place.

Madam Speaker, I thank Lieutenant Matt LeTourneau for his service and sacrifice for the community that he loved. The condolences and gratitude of an entire region are with his mother, with his extended family, his friends, and the firefighters from Springfield and Philadelphia fire companies.

RECOGNIZING STOP THE BLEED TRAINING COURSES

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

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Stop the Bleed training courses offered by the American College of Surgeons.

Every year, more than 180,000 Americans die from injuries sustained in a myriad of ways. What many people may not know is that a large number of these fatalities result not from instantaneous trauma but, rather, from blood loss. From the moment a major injury occurs, the clock is ticking. Uncontrolled bleeding can kill us in as little as 5 to 10 minutes.

Bleeding is a preventable cause of death, and that is why the Stop the Bleed effort is such a valuable program. The American College of Surgeons, working in partnership with many other organizations, has now made this training easily available to Americans across this country.

I had the opportunity to participate in Stop the Bleed training myself, and as part of my course, I learned how to properly apply bandages and tourniquets. And do you know, what? It actually was kind of fun.

We should do everything possible to ensure that more accidents don't become tragedies. This effort must include integrating blood loss prevention into our preparedness toolkit. Let's all

be ready to come to the aid of our fellow citizens if the need ever arises.

Madam Speaker, let's stop the bleed.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF DR. RICHARD ALBERTA

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

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of a constituent of mine in my district, Dr. Richard Alberta, senior pastor at Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Brighton, Michigan. On December 31, 2017, Dr. Alberta stepped down from the pulpit after 40 years of service.

Originally from New York, Dr. Alberta was raised in a nonreligious home. After marrying his high school sweetheart, Donna, he embarked on a successful career until, one day, something changed. He attended a church service and realized the missing puzzle piece in his life was to do whatever he can to pursue and prayerfully consider the path felt by the love of his Lord and devotion to his ministry.

Over the past four decades, Dr. Alberta dedicated his time, wisdom, and leadership to the Lord and the church. His friendship and faithful guidance has made a lasting impression on the lives of so many.

As he begins his next chapter, I wish him all the best, and I commend him on his unwavering commitment to his congregation and to our community as a whole.

□ 1230

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROSELEHTNEN). 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 votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

DOMESTIC EXPLOSIVES DETECTION CANINE CAPACITY BUILDING ACT OF 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4577) to establish a working group to determine ways to develop a domestic canine breeding network to produce high quality explosives detection canines, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4577

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 "Domestic Explosives Detection Canine Capacity Building Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **BEHAVIORAL STANDARDS.**—The term "behavioral standards" means standards for the evaluation of explosives detection working canines for certain factors, including canine temperament, work drive, suitability for training, environmental factors used in evaluations, and canine familiarity with natural or man-made surfaces or working conditions relevant to the canine's expected work area.

(2) **MEDICAL STANDARDS.**—The term "medical standards" means standards for the evaluation of explosives detection working canines for certain factors, including canine health, management of heredity health conditions, breeding practices, genetics, pedigree, and long-term health tracking.

(3) **TECHNICAL STANDARDS.**—The term "technical standards" means standards for the evaluation of explosives detection working canines for certain factors, including canine search techniques, handler-canine communication, detection testing conditions and logistics, and learned explosive odor libraries.

SEC. 3. DOMESTIC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, shall establish a working group to determine ways to develop a decentralized domestic canine breeding network to produce high quality explosives detection canines and modernize canine training standards.

(b) **WORKING GROUP COMPOSITION.**—The working group established under subsection (a) shall be comprised of representatives from the following:

(1) The Transportation Security Administration.

(2) The Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security.

(3) National domestic canine associations with expertise in breeding and pedigree.

(4) Universities with expertise related to explosives detection canines and canine breeding.

(5) Domestic canine breeders and vendors.

(c) **CHAIRPERSONS.**—The Administrator for the Transportation Security Administration shall approve of two individuals from among the representatives of the working group specified in subsection (b) to serve as the Chairpersons of the working group. One such Chairperson shall be from the entities specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of such subsection, and the other such Chairperson shall be from the entities specified in paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of such subsection.

(d) **PRELIMINARY STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Not later than 180 days after the establishment of the working group under subsection (a), such working group shall submit to the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration preliminary behavioral standards, medical standards, and technical standards for the domestic canine breeding network and canine training described in such subsection, including recommendations on how the Transportation Security Administration can engage stakeholders to further the development of such network and training.

(e) **STRATEGY.**—Not later than 180 days after submission of recommendations to the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration under subsection (c), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a strategy for expanding the domestic canine breeding network described in

subsection (a), based on such recommendations.

(f) **CONSULTATION.**—In developing the strategy required under subsection (e), the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall consult with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, the Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Director of the United States Secret Service, and the heads of other Department of Homeland Security components determined appropriate by the Administrator to incorporate, to the extent practicable, mission needs across the Department for an expanded domestic explosives detection canine breeding network that can be leveraged to help meet the Department's operational needs.

(g) **SUNSET.**—The working group established under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is two years after the submission of the strategy required under subsection (e).

SEC. 4. ACQUIRING BASELINE CAPACITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the submission of recommendations to the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration under section 3, the Administrator shall issue baseline behavioral standards, medical standards, and technical standards for explosives detection canines.

(b) **STANDARDS.**—The baseline behavioral standards, medical standards, and technical standards referred to in subsection (a) shall be incorporated, as appropriate, into all statements of work for the Transportation Security Administration explosives detection canine contracts and reflect the detection capabilities required to effectively mitigate terrorist threats. Such standards may be revised by the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, as necessary.

SEC. 5. NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the working group established under this Act.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of passage of my bill, H.R. 4577, the Domestic Explosives Detection Canine Capacity Building Act of 2017.

This legislation creates a working group on behavioral, medical, and technical standards for explosives detection working dog breeding and training programs.

This group will consist of the Transportation Security Administration, the

Office of Science and Technology, private sector canine vendors and breeders, industry associations, leading veterinarians, and academics with firsthand knowledge of the subject matter.

The group's final report on standards should reflect the latest in canine science and will be presented to the TSA Administrator for further breeding development as well as canine procurement.

This bill is common sense. Canines are far more efficient than any machine and much more cost effective. The use of detection canines by the TSA is critical in keeping passengers over American skies safe.

With this in mind, why then, Madam Speaker, does the TSA procure the majority of its canines from European vendors in conjunction with the Department of Defense?

American canine breeders produce exceptional working dog lines, but the TSA's arcane procurement rules and training requirements create barriers to entry for American breeders and especially private sector vendors.

With the passage of H.R. 4577, the TSA will be required to incorporate findings and standards from the working group into its procurement process to create greater consistency and transparency for private sector vendors.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense bill and pass H.R. 4577, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4577, the Domestic Explosives Detection Canine Capacity Building Act of 2017.

In recent years, the volume of air travel has steadily risen, with 42 million people traveling domestically in the last days of 2017 alone. Last year, the worldwide number of people flying rose to a historic high of 4 billion passengers.

The high visibility of the aviation sector makes it a persistent target for terrorists who wish to carry out attacks and inflict harm upon U.S. citizens. As such, the TSA must continue to collaborate with stakeholders and better incorporate proven security tools into security operations. One of the tools that we know to be effective is canine detection teams, particularly in detecting and protecting against explosive threats.

In a May 2017 hearing before the Committee on Homeland Security last year, the Director of the Threat Assessment Division within the Transportation Security Administration attested to the value of aviation screening canine teams, saying: "Canines are incredibly effective. They can do things we can't even measure with machines."

The legislation before us today, H.R. 4577, would require the TSA to establish a working group of stakeholders to determine ways to develop a domestic canine breeding network to produce ex-

plosives detection canines and modernize canine training standards.

Today, the demand for trained and certified dogs is huge, with more and more security stakeholders coming to appreciate the explosive detection capabilities of our four-legged friends. This heightened demand has led to a shortage, presenting challenges for the U.S. Government in the procurement of suitable canines.

In testimony before the committee, the TSA and various stakeholders have cited these challenges and expressed concern regarding how to best address this shortage. That is why this legislation is so important.

The working group mandated in this legislation draws from authorities on explosives detection canines and homeland security missions, including the Transportation Security Administration, the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate, national domestic canine associations, academic experts, and domestic canine breeders and vendors.

The knowledge and expertise offered by this diverse group of representatives will ensure that the DHS can implement an effective and impactful strategy to further the development of explosives detection canine teams.

For these reasons, Madam Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO), who is the chairman of the Transportation and Protective Security Subcommittee of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my colleague's bill, H.R. 4477, the Domestic Explosives Detection Canine Capacity Building Act of 2017.

This bill will help develop a domestic program through which the DHS and the TSA can acquire high-quality explosives detection canines from the United States. Currently, too much money is spent on too few canines because we are forced to compete for dogs from other countries in this high-demand threat environment.

Mr. ROGERS' bill will help mitigate threats to aviation security by working to build our capacity here at home while proliferating the use of highly capable explosives detection canines. In a time when threats to homeland security are rapidly evolving, these dogs represent one of our greatest security tools in detecting explosives in surface and aviation transportation systems.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. ROGERS for his leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

H.R. 4577 will jump-start conversations on how to increase the supply of canines and better integrate them in the TSA's layered security at airports

and surface transportation hubs. Canines have become an invaluable asset to the DHS in fulfilling its many important missions and goals.

Even prior to the inception of the Department, canines were utilized by law enforcement and first responder agencies for decades, proving to be one of the most effective and versatile tools in detecting threats and protecting the homeland.

Terrorists are working hard to exploit vulnerabilities in our transportation system, and the U.S. must utilize all of our available resources to combat these threats. Canines are undoubtedly one such resource, providing a robust and reliable layer of security and giving Americans peace of mind.

If enacted, H.R. 4577 would better position the TSA to achieve and maintain a reliable supply of canines to deploy to not only airport terminals, but also to cargo operations and mass transit systems.

As such, Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 4577, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, this is an area that we have spent a lot of time on in the Committee on Homeland Security over several years, and I can state without equivocation that there is no technology that is more effective at detecting explosives in our transportation systems than these canines.

It is a shame that we have allowed ourselves to become so heavily dependent on European providers for this very essential asset. This bill will go a long way in helping our country establish its own production of these essential assets for our use in keeping our country safe and secure.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4577, 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.

DHS OVERSEAS PERSONNEL ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2017

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4567) to require a Department of Homeland Security overseas personnel enhancement plan, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4567

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 "DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. OVERSEAS PERSONNEL BRIEFING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after submission of the comprehensive three-year strategy required under section 1910 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate regarding Department of Homeland Security personnel with primary duties that take place outside of the United States.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The briefing required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A detailed summary of each type of personnel position with primary duties that take place outside of the United States and how each such position contributes to the Department of Homeland Security's counterterrorism mission.

(2) Information related to how the geographic and regional placement of such positions contributes to the Department's counterterrorism mission.

(3) Information related to the position-specific training received by such personnel before and during placement at a foreign location.

(4) Challenges that may impede the communication of counterterrorism information between Department personnel at foreign locations and Department entities in the United States, including technical, resource, and administrative challenges.

(5) The status of efforts to implement the strategy referred to in subsection (a).

(6) The status of efforts (beginning with the second briefing required under this section) to implement the enhancement plan under section 3.

SEC. 3. OVERSEAS PERSONNEL ENHANCEMENT PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the briefing required under section 2, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a plan to enhance the effectiveness of Department of Homeland Security personnel at foreign locations.

(b) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The plan referred to in subsection (a) shall include proposals to—

(1) improve efforts of Department of Homeland Security personnel at foreign locations, as necessary, for purposes of providing foreign partner capacity development and furthering the Department's counterterrorism mission;

(2) as appropriate, redeploy Department personnel to respond to changing threats to the United States;

(3) enhance collaboration among Department personnel at foreign locations, other Federal personnel at foreign locations, and foreign partners;

(4) improve the communication of counterterrorism information between Department personnel at foreign locations and Department entities in the United States, including to address technical, resource, and administrative challenges; and

(5) maintain practices to guard against counter-espionage threats associated with Department personnel.

SEC. 4. TERMINATION.

The briefing requirement under section 2 shall terminate on the date that is four years after the submission of the strategy referred to in such section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4567, the DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2017.

As chairman of the Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation and Protective Security, I recently led a bipartisan congressional delegation to Europe and the Middle East to examine international aviation security and counterterrorism operations. The efforts of DHS personnel stationed overseas to build relationships with foreign partners, to coordinate with other Federal agencies, and to secure our homeland from threats before they arrive on our shores are truly a testament to the vital counterterror mission of Homeland Security. Additionally, the trip underscored the need to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of our overseas programs in a manner that is risk-based.

Unfortunately, however, I also observed that even today, more than 15 years after 9/11, the United States Government still struggles to avoid stovepiping and effectively participate in information sharing and collaboration on homeland security matters. It is imperative that DHS personnel serve as a force multiplier with their Federal counterparts to act in genuine partnership when mitigating threats to the homeland both here and abroad.

My legislation takes observations from our delegation and codifies requirements to make overseas DHS personnel more effective and better equipped. This bill provides critical transparency to the training provided to overseas DHS employees, as well as how their positions and roles measurably contribute to the counterterrorism mission of the Department of Homeland Security.

Additionally, my bill will allow Congress to understand what organizational culture or bureaucratic hindrances exist to effective information sharing among DHS personnel and how we can break down barriers to better address evolving threats to the United States.

The first role of government is to protect its citizens, and it is incumbent upon those of us in Congress to ensure that the United States Government is doing all it can to respond to changing threats, share information effectively,