

Mr. Speaker, Congress can take a big step this year to knock down barriers to treatment. Just as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 tore down barriers to integration, just as the Americans with Disabilities Act tore down barriers for people with disabilities, this year we can knock down barriers to treatment for people who are suffering the ravages of drug and alcohol addiction. We can pass the Substance Abuse Treatment Parity Act and make treatment available for 16 million more Americans.

Mr. Speaker, let me just close by saying this is a life-or-death issue because chemical addiction is fatal if it is left untreated. So, I urge my colleagues, please join me in cosponsoring H.R. 2409.

#### OFFERING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF TRAGIC AMBUSH SHOOTING IN CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, AR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DEAL of Georgia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great reluctance to address this body today. I am honored every time that I step into this Chamber, but this afternoon to be here and to speak on a topic that I am about to address, is the last thing I want to do.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to eulogize the lives of the five people, one woman and four little girls, who lost their lives yesterday in the senseless and tragic ambush shooting in Craighead County, Arkansas. I rise to offer my condolences to the families of these victims and to those that were injured and to the entire community as they struggle to make sense of the violence that we never dreamed would be visited upon our State.

As nearly everyone in the country knows from the media reports that we have been receiving, yesterday afternoon someone pulled a fire alarm at Westside Middle School in Craighead County, Arkansas. As teachers and students evacuated the building, they were greeted by a torrent of gunfire from nearby woods.

Among the victims is Shannon Wright. Mrs. Wright was a 32-year-old teacher who was shot while trying to shield sixth grader Emma Pittman from the hail of bullets. Mrs. Wright died at 7:53 last night, following surgery. Eleven-year-old Amber Vanover told reporters what she saw: "He was fixing to shoot her, and Mrs. Wright moved in front of her."

Eleven-year-old Natalie Brooks also lost her life. Paige Ann Herring and Stephanie Johnson, age 12, and Brit-tany Varner, age 11, had their lives taken from them. A heartbreaking loss for their families and friends.

Sara Lynette Thetford, who teaches social studies to Westside sixth graders, stepped in front of 13-year-old

Brittney Lambie when the shooting began. Mrs. Thetford and Brittney remain in critical condition today. Eight more students were wounded in the shooting: Amanda Barnes, Jennifer Jacobs, Candace Porter, Ashley Betts, Tristan McGowan, Christina Amer, Jenna Brooks, and Whitney Irving.

Inevitably, tragedies produce heroes and there was no shortage of heroes yesterday. In addition to teachers Shannon Wright and Sara Thetford, Sheriff Dale Haas and the Craighead County Sheriff's Department, as well as the Arkansas State Police, did a commendable job of containing the scene and securing the surrounding areas.

The emergency medical response teams in Jonesboro and Craighead County, Emerson Ambulance Service, Patient Transfer Service, and Keller Ambulance Service, all showed great professionalism under difficult circumstances.

The paramedics and medical technicians from those three agencies worked together as a team and did a tremendous job of administering care to the victims. The doctors and staff of St. Bernard's Regional Medical Center did an outstanding job of preparing themselves for the chaos that entered the emergency room yesterday afternoon. They have also done an outstanding job of keeping the community informed of the status of the survivors.

I know that the families around Craighead County are thankful for the many counselors and ministers from Jonesboro and from around the State who have offered their services to help the children of Westside cope with this horrible tragedy. The people in the communities that make up Westside school district, Bono, Cash, and Egypt, will look to each and to the Lord in the wake of this tragedy. The fact that children were victimized in a place where they should be safe makes this ordeal even more difficult to comprehend.

We are all asking "Why?" Why did these young lives have to be snuffed out so senselessly? That answer may never come, and as many have suggested, the answer may be beyond our comprehension. Craighead County is a wonderful place full of people who for many, many years have worked to strengthen their community. It is a place where traditional values, faith in God, love of fellow man, and commitment to family are the pillars upon which the community is built and the source of strength that they will have to rely on now.

As is often the case when the world seems turned upside down, the Bible provides some solace. The 46th Psalm says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed and the mountains be carried into the sea."

If there is any place on earth that is capable of dealing with a tragedy of this magnitude, that place is Craighead

County, Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, my wife Carolyn and I, and our children, send our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the families and to the community as a whole, as does the entire staff of the offices of the First Congressional District.

We stand ready to assist in any way that we can and wish Godspeed to the people of Craighead County as we all continue to deal with this horrifying tragedy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAPPAS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAPPAS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STUPAK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CARSON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FOX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I join with the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY), my good friend, and all of our colleagues in wishing all the prayers to the First District of Arkansas and to all the families there,

greatest sympathy and prayers for God to help in every way he can from this point forward. The gentleman from Arkansas knows that he has our support in that endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, in other action in the House this week, I wanted to make special mention of the cooperation and the assistance in working together on an outstanding new transportation bill that would not have come without the outstanding leadership of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), ranking member, in crafting a piece of legislation which is historic in providing the road improvements, the mass transit assistance that is so important to all of our municipalities, cities, and towns all across the United States.

I know from my district that roads need to be improved and mass transit systems can be made to be better in many ways. I am especially grateful for the approval by the committee of a new system which would be the Schuylkill Valley Metro, the first new transit system in many years in our State, and one of the first new ones in our region of the United States. This Schuylkill Valley Metro will go from Philadelphia to Reading, and help people who now find themselves in gridlock on a major highway to now have safe, convenient transit once we have finished the appropriations process.

I also wanted to bring to the attention of my colleagues tonight another related transportation matter. As the lead person in the House on the Results Caucus with regard to the Federal Aviation Administration, I am working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to adopt legislation which will improve their safety, not the least of which would be to require the child safety seats on airplanes, which will make sure that we keep our children as safe in an airplane as we do in our vehicles. Most of all, protection for airplane employees, to make sure that the defects that are present can be reported more easily so that the changes can be forthcoming, and to allow our airline staff on the planes to have defibrillators so that those who are on long trips can get all the medical attention they need prior to going to a hospital for further care.

These are three important bills moving through the House, hopefully with as much speed as possible. I will continue my efforts, working with like-minded colleagues on collision avoidance systems, improved air traffic control, and increased use of the Doppler radar to make sure that those who fly the planes can avoid wind shear and to make sure our skies are as safe as possible so that the transit of our constituents can be that which we want it to be, the safest in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), our chairman, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN), our subcommittee chairman, and

the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. DANNER) because she will be working with us in a bipartisan fashion, to do what we can, working with the airlines, military, and commercial aircraft and their experts so that we can make sure that airplane safety will be as safe as it can be, and to make sure that the flying public have the confidence always, as they already have, that they will get the best.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3310, SMALL BUSINESS PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1998

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-466) on the resolution (H. Res. 396) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3310) to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, for the purpose of facilitating compliance by small businesses with certain Federal paperwork requirements, and to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements applicable to small businesses, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN STEVE SCHIFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I learned this evening of the death of my friend, my congressional classmate, and my colleague, STEVE SCHIFF. His family and close friends in New Mexico and across the country are certainly all in our prayers.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to speak briefly about this. I was not able to be here during the memorial resolution because of the duties of the Committee on Rules. I think it is important that those of us who knew STEVE well have an opportunity to reflect, even briefly.

STEVE possessed a trait in Washington that is all too rare. His word was simply as good as gold. He was certainly one of the most conscientious Members I have ever worked with. He was responsible, hardworking, and I think he made an extraordinary contribution to every project that he participated in.

I know he was very well regarded by his colleagues. That was certainly one of the reasons why he was asked to take on the difficult services of a job in the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, a responsibility that I shared with him during one of perhaps the most tumultuous episodes in this House's recent history.

In his work of the House to resolve what I would call difficult and sensitive matters, STEVE proved to have necessary skills: experience, judgment, guidance, a good shoulder to lean on, a

lot of rational demeanor, and above all, principles, very solid principles that never moved, the principles that got the job done.

□ 1900

He was the right person in the right place at the right time for this House, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude and thanks for that very difficult assignment.

It turned out that STEVE's work on the Ethics Committee, ironically was one of his last high-profile accomplishments in Washington. And it was not something that he or any of us particularly enjoyed. It was a duty, as with all his duties, that he discharged with integrity and accountability. I will say that he was an inspiration for all of us during those long and frustrating hours and days and weeks. And it was a time, incidentally, when he was sick and we did not know it.

And all through that period this was true. For his entire public service career, STEVE ably and thoughtfully represented the people of New Mexico's First Congressional District. It is quite a record and a great legacy.

I am honored to have served with STEVE. I will miss him. I extend my deepest sympathy to his family.

#### TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BOB SCHAFFER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, this evening the freshmen Republican class takes to the floor to spend a little time during this special order to discuss various issues that we have been focusing on as individual Members and as a group, 34 Members strong.

We spent a lot of time in our home districts holding town meetings, surveying our constituents and focusing on the topics that we believe our constituents have sent us here to represent. Joining me this evening is the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. REDMOND), who has been fighting very vigorously for some property rights issues in his district.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and turn some of our time over to the gentleman from the State of New Mexico to talk about his legislation, House Resolution 2538, which would establish a presidential commission to determine the validity of certain land claims arising out of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo from 1848.

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time to share with the House of Representatives today a portion of history that many people have forgotten. This is a story, a story of a people who settled in the American Southwest many years before the pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

The story has been forgotten by most Americans, but it lives on. It is a story