

we realize how much we owe to police officers all across this country.

So I think by using the Rotunda to honor these fallen heroes we are honoring not only the specific acts of courage that have saved so many other Americans and we are not only honoring them because of the fact that this was their building and they were protecting it, we also honor them, all fallen law enforcement heroes who have died defending the American people from evil.

So my heart goes out to the families of John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut, and particularly those young kids that have lost a father. We have lost two wonderful heroes who have saved so many from harm. We have lost two heroes who were dedicated husbands and wonderful fathers, and I urge all my colleagues and the American people in general to pray for these families as they try to cope with this great loss.

Mr. Speaker, I will just add at the end, if people around this country want to donate to the memorial fund created by this resolution, they can send their contributions to the United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund, United States Capitol, Washington, D.C., 20515.

Let me also add, if the gentleman will further yield, something that really touched me just a while ago. One of the pages came up to me and handed me this, and I want to put it in the RECORD, from the pages that serve here in the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, the Pages would like to say that "We salute these two fallen heroes who gave their lives for ours. In the line of duty, these men stood strong and brave for their country. For that, we all owe a great debt of gratitude.

"We are all aware of their courageous sacrifice, and we hold these officers deep in our hearts. God bless their families, and God bless America."

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding, and I include for the RECORD the tribute by our Pages.

FROM THE PAGES OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

We salute these two fallen heroes who gave their lives for ours. In the line of duty, these men stood strong and brave for their country. For that, we all owe a great debt of gratitude.

We are all aware of their courageous sacrifice, and we hold these officers deep in our hearts. God bless their families, and God bless America.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, under my reservation, I sadly join the majority whip, whose comments are both personal but express as well the sentiments of his colleagues.

Over 14,622 law enforcement officers have lost their lives in the history of our country. The first one lost his life in 1794. Since that time, we have asked some of our fellow citizens to take upon themselves the responsibility and the risk of defending freedom here at home.

When I began the Pledge of Allegiance, I said that Officer Chestnut and

Detective Gibson died defending the principles for which it stands. That was literally and figuratively true. Every morning those whom we ask to bear the responsibility of maintaining order in a civil society, without which we would not have freedom and justice and the rule of law, they put on their uniform or their plain clothes and they put on a badge, and most of them attach a gun to their hip or to their shoulder. They and their families know that daily they risk their lives. In this instance, of course, because no previous Capitol police officer has lost his or her life in a confrontation, that risk seemed remote.

Mr. Speaker, Friday, July 24 reminds us once again that the risk is always present for those we ask to defend this free society. The vagaries of life are such that there are those, either demented or angry or for whatever reasons, take onto themselves the opportunity to commit violence.

In this instance, Officer Chestnut, Detective Gibson and, indeed, the hundreds of Capitol police officers who responded to this crisis, gave their lives that many others might be safe and, more importantly, to indicate that the Capitol of the United States, Freedom's House, if you will, will, in fact, be accessible, but it will also be protected.

Our community on this Hill is a grief-stricken community, and it is a reflection of a country that shares that grief. I have had the opportunity of talking to family members of these officers. I and so many others on this floor know the personal grief that they are experiencing. They have lost a loved one. They have lost a friend. They have lost a dad or brother or an uncle or a friend and a neighbor. They have a very personal grief.

But our country has a collective grief, and it is appropriate that we honor these men, both as individual American heroes, but as well, as the majority whip has indicated, as two members of a group of some 700,000 Americans who daily leave their homes and take to their duties to defend America's principles, to defend Americans, to defend an orderly society.

These men and women of law enforcement, like those we ask to join the Armed Services and defend freedom abroad, are equally responsible for us being able to meet in this body in a society that honors the peaceful resolution of disputes. We are the land of the free because we are the home of the brave. This resolution honors two of those brave who ensure that this will be, in fact, the land of the free.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1702

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ARMEY) at 5 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.)

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DETECTIVE JOHN MICHAEL GIBSON AND PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JACOB JOSEPH CHESTNUT OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE FOR THEIR SELFLESS ACTS OF HEROISM AT THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL ON JULY 24, 1998

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I offer a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 311) honoring the memory of Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police for their selfless acts of heroism at the United States Capitol on July 24, 1998, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 311

Whereas the Capitol is the people's house, and, as such, it has always been and will remain open to the public;

Whereas millions of people visit the Capitol each year to observe and study the workings of the democratic process;

Whereas the Capitol is the most recognizable symbol of liberty and democracy throughout the world and those who guard the Capitol guard our freedom;

Whereas Private First Class Jacob "J.J." Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson sacrificed their lives to protect the lives of hundreds of tourists, staff, and Members of Congress;

Whereas if not for the quick and courageous action of those officers, many innocent people would likely have been injured or killed;

Whereas through their selfless acts, Detective Gibson and Private First Class Chestnut underscored the courage, honor, and dedication shown daily by every member of the United States Capitol Police and every law enforcement officer;

Whereas Private First Class Chestnut, a Vietnam veteran who spent 20 years in the Air Force, was an 18-year veteran of the Capitol Police, and was married to Wen Ling and had five children, Joseph, Janece, Janet, Karen and William;

Whereas Detective Gibson, assigned as Rep. Tom DeLay's bodyguard for the last

three years, was an 18-year veteran of the Capitol Police, and was married to Evelyn and had three children, Kristen, John and Daniel;

Whereas Private First Class Chestnut and Detective Gibson were the first United States Capitol Police officers ever killed in the line of duty;

Whereas Private First Class Chestnut and Detective Gibson, and all those who helped apprehend the gunman, assist the injured, and evacuate the building, are true heroes of democracy, and every American owes them a deep debt of gratitude: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) Congress hereby honors the memory of Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police for the selfless acts of heroism they displayed on July 24, 1998, in sacrificing their lives in the line of duty so that others might live; and

(2) when the House of Representatives adjourns on this date and when the Senate adjourns or recesses on this date, they shall do so out of respect to the memory of Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut.

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be debatable for 2 hours and 30 minutes, equally divided and controlled by myself or my designee and the minority leader or his designee.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGRICH) is recognized for 1 hour and 15 minutes.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me first thank everyone who rose to their duty or went beyond their duty in the last few days: the Capitol Police, the various emergency teams, the medical centers, the Washington Metropolitan Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, staffs here in the Congress, Members of the House and Senate.

An awful lot of people, including, let me say, the visitors to the Capitol, an awful lot of people responded in a human way to a human need. For myself, I particularly want to thank Senator CONNIE MACK, who voluntarily called and went around with me on Friday night to visit the family of officer J.J. Chestnut and the family of John Gibson, and also to visit the family of the visitor that had been injured, Angela Dickerson, and her family, who were visitors to the Capitol.

Because I think had every American been able to visit those families in this time of shock, of pain, of loss, and to have seen the courage, the dedication, the pride that the families felt, I think it was a very humbling experience. I know that for me and for them, it was enriched by Senator MACK taking the time to be with them, to express his concern on behalf of the entire Senate.

Let me also say that I have been very grateful to Senator LOTT for responding again and again, and for Senator DASCHLE, and to the minority leader,

the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), and the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), because together we have made a series of decisions that are without precedent, because frankly, this is an event without precedent.

In all the history of the United States, no one had ever been killed defending the Capitol. In all the history of the Capitol Police, never before had officers been killed in the line of duty.

I believe that it drove home to all of us, certainly to me and those Members I have talked to, to the staffs I have talked to, how real and how serious the process of security is, and how much we are a Capitol Hill family; that the larger family of freedom has within it a smaller family of individuals who work together every day.

In a few minutes, the majority whip, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) will talk, and he will talk from the heart about Detective John Gibson. But I was very struck, both that Mrs. DeLay said to me when I called to chat with her that John Gibson had become like family because they are so close; and then when I went out to the hospital, Mrs. Gibson, Evelyn, said how proud John Gibson was to have worked with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TOM DELAY), and how much he enjoyed his assignment; how close they had become.

To further drive home how much a family this is, I learned later that Evelyn Gibson is the niece of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. JOE MOAKLEY), so it becomes an ever tighter and more human tying together of families.

Let me also thank President Clinton, who responded immediately with concern on Friday afternoon; who on Saturday helped the Nation come to grips with this tragedy; and who has been extraordinarily cooperative in making arrangements for Arlington Cemetery and in agreeing to be at the memorial service tomorrow.

When I talked with staff members, and I was with the various staff members who had been in the whip's office at the time that the Capitol was attacked, at the time that Detective Gibson gave his life saving their lives, I think anybody who talked with them and heard from those staff their feelings, their sense of the degree to which John Gibson rose to the occasion, the degree to which he immediately told them to protect themselves, told them to be safe, the degree to which he then literally placed his body between danger and innocent people, cannot help but be moved by this level of dedication.

If you had talked to the visitor who was standing next to Officer J.J. Chestnut when he was killed and you learned that, literally, Officer Chestnut was in the process of giving directions to the subway to help visitors to the Capitol, and then you learn that his partner was a few feet away because he was getting a wheelchair to help other visi-

tors, it reminded you that they are both our protectors and our ambassadors, and how much they do to make this Capitol a better place, and how tragic their deaths are.

Let me also thank all of the visitors who Marianne and I saw on Saturday when we walked over to the Capitol. Because of their commitment, the visitors have said it is important not to let madmen or terrorists frighten us away from freedom; it is important to come to our House, the people's House, to our building, the people's building. Tourists were there as an act of patriotism, not just to visit in the normal sense but to deliberately go there the day after the shootings to say that they were going to show their solidarity, and I was moved to tears walking up the main steps and seeing a set of flowers that had already been there at 9:30 that morning, that had wrapped around it, "To our heroes who save our freedom." I think no person who has a heart could have passed those flowers without having tears come to their eyes, because they captured it.

These two men are genuine heroes. They did their job. The system worked but at terrible personal cost. We are safe because of their sacrifice.

It is totally appropriate that we have suspended any other business for today in honor of their memory. It is totally appropriate that for the first time in history, two officers will be lying in honor in the Rotunda tomorrow. It is totally appropriate that we recognize them both for what they have done here at the Capitol and for the reminder that safety and freedom come at a very human cost; that there are uniformed personnel in the police, in the Border Patrol, in the military, who even as I speak are putting their lives on the line in order that this civilization can continue.

I want to say to Officer Chestnut's family, to Wen Ling, his wife, to Joseph, Janece, Janet, Karen and William, that you can be very, very proud of your father. He served his country in the Air Force and he served his country in the Capitol Police. He was a man I saw every day, as did most Members of the leadership, because that was the door we went in and out of every day. He was always courteous. He was always firm. He was always disciplined. He always did his job. He will be very sadly missed, but your family can be proud that your father is a genuine hero.

Let me say to Detective John Gibson's family, to his wife Evelyn and to his three children, Kristen and John and Daniel, that Detective Gibson had made a real mark here. At one point he had helped me a number of years ago. Then he was assigned to help the whip, TOM DELAY. He was an active supporter of Heroes, which is a nationwide program which helps families of officers who are killed in the line of duty. He was a man dedicated to law enforcement and a man who for 18 years had served this Capitol and this country very well.

While you cannot replace him, I hope that your memory of him as a genuine hero is a memory that will bring you some warmth in these difficult times.

I think I speak for every Member of the House and Senate and for every staff person who works here in saying to these two families that our hearts go out to you; that we were proud to announce on Saturday the establishment of a memorial trust fund at the Capitol Police; that we believe that every citizen who wants to have an opportunity to participate should have that opportunity and that these families deserve an outpouring of concern and of affection because they have literally given the highest full dedication to their country that anyone can give.

□ 1715

We will continue to protect the Capitol and to protect freedom. We will not allow terrorists or madmen to block this from being the People's House and the People's building. We recognize with sadness and a clearer sense of duty just how vital the role is of the Capitol Police, and I believe every citizen who comes to this building will, for many years to come, recognize that the men and women who are protecting this building are truly doing a vital job if freedom is to survive.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority whip.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I greatly appreciate those words. I really want to thank the Speaker and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the minority leader; the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), the minority whip; the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the majority leader; and the majority leader in the Senate, Senator LOTT; and the minority leader of the Senate, Senator DASCHLE; for quickly understanding the import of what happened on Friday around 3:40 p.m. and how important it is to the Nation, as well as to the Capitol community, to honor these two heroes.

They understood the importance, understood how we needed to come together and figure out some way to honor them, and that is why they will lie in honor tomorrow in the Rotunda. That is why I greatly appreciate the President understanding how important this is to the Capitol community; and he just announced that, even though Detective Gibson is not a veteran, he will be allowed to be buried in Arlington Cemetery. I greatly appreciate that, and the families of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson greatly appreciate that.

A little housekeeping, I understand that even if we run out of time this evening, those Members that wish to speak, who could not speak tonight, will be able to speak in honor of these gentlemen tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, we dedicate this resolution to honor the memory of Detective

John Michael Gibson and Officer Jacob Joseph Chestnut. And tomorrow, as I have said, we must live our lives knowing that this country was a better place because of the dedication and the courage of these two men.

It is, after all, the lives of these two men that we celebrate today. Both were family men who loved their jobs and loved their country. Both gave their lives defending the United States, the Capitol, and the people who either worked here or visited here.

John Gibson was especially close to my staff and to me and my family, as everyone knows. And as I have said before, John was part of my family and in many ways he was and is our guardian angel.

There are so many stories to talk about John. I have said already probably anything and everything I could say, so I decided to take this time not for me to speak about John, but to allow my staff to speak about John. This is the day I asked my staff, anyone who wanted to say something about John, to put it in words; and if I may, I will take a little time so that people understand how important John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut were to our family.

Tony Rudy said that, "My fondest memory of John is when we used to rush to get the 4 o'clock mail and try to get the Boston Herald and the Boston Globe. We would talk UMass hoops and about the Bruins. He worked very hard to get TOM to understand and enjoy hockey."

John Russell said, "Officer Chestnut would scold me whenever I walked past him entering the building after I had a cigarette outside, and said it was his mission to get me to quit and be as healthy as he was."

Frank Maguire, "With both John and I being Irish Catholic with a Massachusetts heritage, we exchanged family stories about growing up and found many similarities that we could laugh about. I had described John to my wife as my vision of what a Catholic priest would be like who was allowed to marry and raise a family. I will never forget that mental image of John Gibson."

"He was from a bygone era, one where people actually stopped and took time to learn about you as a person and your family, before focusing on what function you were to perform in the office."

John Feehery said, "I remember feeling a real sense of security every time I saw Officer Chestnut. You could tell he took real pride in his work and who he was as a police officer."

Mary Ellen Wright, the dear girl that saw John shot, says, "When you remember John, remember that grin. His grin that could melt your heart or tell you that you had done wrong with just one look."

"When you remember John, remember that twinkle in his eye. It was often a twinkle of mystery and sometimes a mischievous twinkle, but al-

ways a twinkle of compassion, a twinkle of love.

"When you remember John, remember his honesty, his willingness to express his opinions, whether you agreed with him or not. Yes, that was John. He always spoke from his heart."

"When you remember John, remember his outstanding character, his commitment to his family, his commitment to his friends, to his work, and his overall commitment to excellence in all of his pursuits."

"When you remember John, consider yourself lucky to have crossed paths with such a fine man. Remember John with a smile. Cherish the precious moments, the precious memories, of which there are many. Everyone knows what a hero is, the many qualities that define such a unique person. John Gibson is not only a hero, but an angel. He was our angel on earth and is now our angel in heaven."

Lindsey Darrah, who was just 10 feet from John, her desk 10 feet from John, says, "Officer Chestnut, the watchdog. He was the officer that recognized us as staff, but regardless, made us show our IDs. He was the officer that was never quite convinced the silver tins were in fact filled with Popeye's Fried Chicken. Oftentimes, we would bring in five or six loads from the car. Yes, he not only made us open every single tin to see what was inside, but then he would make us put the chicken on the conveyor belt just to make sure it was really and truly that chicken from Popeye's. You can imagine that we were always highly annoyed with sweet Officer Chestnut, and I am sure he knew it. But he was just doing his job, and he would say so and we would all laugh every time."

Joe Connolly, who is the young man who sat just across the desk from John and who John, on hearing the shots being fired, knew that it was coming our way and told Joe to get under his desk. The shooter fell right beside Joe as John took him down. Joe says, "I just want people to realize how close everyone in our office really is. Most people may think, oh, he was just a cop. But it was definitely more than that, especially to me. He saved my immediate life, and I will never have a chance to personally thank him."

Autumn Hanna says, "I remember about a month after I started working here, I had to staff a large televised event with Mr. DELAY. I was incredibly nervous and John could tell. He walked into the hotel ballroom with me right behind Mr. DELAY, put his arm around me and whispered in my ear, 'Don't worry, I'll stay with you.'"

"He stood right next to me throughout the evening and drove me home afterwards. His action that night reveals the dynamic of the relationship John had with all the Whip staff. He was our protector, a reassuring presence in the midst of the chaos and the confusion we encountered in our work days and nights here at the Capitol."

"He was that in his last moment. He gave his life in the midst of chaos and

confusion. He gave his life protecting us, and I am still reassured by his presence. Our guardian is now in heaven instead of at the back door, but he will always be with us."

Deana Funderburk said, "Last year when I was working in the scheduling department of the Whip office, Mother Theresa visited the Capitol. Congressman DELAY, accompanied by John Gibson, went to the Joint Session in the Rotunda to welcome her. Before Congressman DELAY and John left the office, John asked me if I was going to be able to go. I unfortunately was not able to attend.

"The ceremony commenced and in remembrance of that momentous event, each person in attendance was given a pendant with an engraving of the Virgin Mary on it. After the welcoming ceremony was finished, John came up to my desk and held out his hand in a fist. He said that since I was not able to attend, he wanted me to have his special pendant.

"I cannot express how much that gesture meant to me, and how generous and kind a man he was. I still have that pendant which I will always treasure."

Pamela Mattox says, "In church yesterday, I looked at the crucifix and for the first time truly understood the sacrifice of giving up one's own life for others. That is what John Gibson did for all of us in the Whip office. We lived because he cared enough to protect us.

"But in reflection, every day he did more than that. His way of life exemplified the best of the Golden Rule, at worship, at home, at play, and at work.

"John Gibson was, in a most unassuming way, simply the best. We have lost someone precious and John is now with the Lord. He was very much needed by all of us and greatly loved. We thank you for allowing him to enlighten our lives and will forever miss him.

"John, thank you for making the world a far better place and leaving us with so many special memories."

Mr. Speaker, there are others on my staff who would like to say things, but maybe tomorrow we can put that in the RECORD. These are some of the things that my staff wanted to express about Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson.

So, Mr. Speaker, this gives a sense of the kind of men they were and how tragic it is that they have been taken away from us. The entire Whip staff wants to send its condolences and prayers to the Gibson and Chestnut families and to the community, the Capitol community here. We all feel a great, great loss. We will always be grateful for their sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, at a later date, hopefully we can come back and honor those Capitol Police that also were heroes and lived, those that were involved in the incident and did some very heroic things. They also deserve to be honored.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to thank the Speaker of the

House and the majority leader and the majority whip and all of the Members of the House who today with one voice bring this resolution in memory and to honor the memory of these two great officers, Officer Chestnut and Officer Gibson.

On Friday, at 3:40 or so in the afternoon, the family of the People's House was attacked by a deranged killer. We rise today in anguish and in real sorrow and devastation at the loss that occurred here in our House of Representatives and our Capitol.

□ 1730

But our loss is not nearly the loss that is felt by these dear families.

On Saturday, I had the opportunity to go to the House of Officer Gibson and to meet his wife and his children. Imagine putting yourself into the shoes of his wife who has lost her husband of many years without even so much as the opportunity to say goodbye. Imagine putting yourself into the shoes of a 13-year-old or a 15-year-old who adored your father and now he is gone. Their loss is unimaginable, unfathomable and impossible to understand.

I hugged his wife and told her how sorry all of us are and how much we loved them and cared for them. And I told them that even though they had lost their father, that in a real sense they now have 435 additional fathers and mothers, and that we will never, ever forget and we will never, ever let them down.

We will be there for them, for Officer Gibson's children and wife, Officer Chestnut's wife and children. I know that we will all be there to see that the injury that they have sustained, while it can never be taken back, while the loss can never be restored, that all of us together, functioning as a family, will be certain that they will not be injured further and, to the extent we can, we will love them forever.

Supreme Court Justice Brandeis, one of the greatest justices in our Nation's history, said that courage is the secret of liberty. That courage that Justice Brandeis was talking about is usually quiet and unheralded and unnoticed. But today we stand to recognize the public acts of courage of two brave human beings who literally gave their lives in their line of duty and so that others could live.

They lost their lives by the narrowest of margins. They could have been at another door. They could have been at another place. They could have been on another shift. But it is precisely that margin, measured out again and again on battlefields far, far from this place, on streets close to here, and last week only steps from where we stand, that marks out democracy from the darkness.

These two good men, strong and decent, rank in the legion of honor of those who died so that liberty may live on in the lives of others. They remind us of the lesson of all of our history, that the survival and success of a free

society depends far less on grand speeches than on countless individual acts of duty and courage.

The ultimate sacrifice of J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson literally saved the lives of countless Members of our congressional family and countless numbers of visitors who pass through these halls. The scope of this tragedy could have been so much worse and touched so many more lives, had they not automatically responded so professionally and expertly to the horrible threat, the horrible violence which invaded this citadel of democracy.

The tragic and senseless event was a horrible reminder that our liberty and the liberty of all Americans faces a silent threat from the dark side of human nature. Those of us who spend so much of our lives in this public place often forget about the reality, the daily reality of this threat. But the men and women of the Capitol Police never forget. They are our guardians, not just of offices and officials, but of our city on the hill, the place that is the pride of our government and our country and the heart of our self-government. They allow the business of democracy to thrive, open to the citizens to whom it belongs.

We are here today to honor the fallen officers, but we also have to take this opportunity to salute the quiet courage of all the officers of the Capitol Police who come to work each day without notice, without heralding, without publicity, who get up and put their uniform on, pin their badge on and come into this place and face the threat of immediate death and violence. They are the salt of the earth. They are the reason our democracy can live, and they should be honored and they should be held up for all of our public to see and to notice today and always.

The members of the force believe in this great House. They are dedicated to working hard to protect the Members, the staff and, yes, the visitors who pass through here every day. And they do their job well, and they do it professionally. And they do it with courtesy.

As the Speaker said, Officer Chestnut was writing out directions for visitors to be able to get through the building. Another officer who was involved was also off getting a wheelchair. They have not just been guardians and policemen. They have been ambassadors of goodwill to the public which come to this building and want to understand what is happening here. Until a tragedy strikes, they never get the publicity or the attention they deserve for making this institution work and keeping it free and strong every day, every minute of every day and night.

Today we honor their sacrifice and their service to this Nation and to all of us.

I have the honor of being served also by a plainclothes officer, Ed Pence. Until Friday, I guess I never understood or was particularly conscious of the threat that he has faced every day over the last 9 years. I want to thank

him. I want to thank his family. I want to thank all the officers and all of their families for their brave and dedicated service.

It is easy for us on the other side of the thin blue line to forget that law enforcement is the most dangerous job in our country, but it is a fact that our officers and especially their families are reminded of every day. So we pay tribute to these brave officers who gave their lives in defense of all of us and for our liberty. As we especially honor their families, we especially honor their families who will never be made whole no matter what we say or what we do in this place.

To those families we offer our prayers, we offer our gratitude. We cannot quench your sorrow. We can share it with you. We can stand in your shoes. We can imagine your hurt. We can imagine your anguish. We can pledge that you will be made whole, as best human beings can make you whole. We will never forget what your fathers did. They have made the ultimate sacrifice, and we will never forget it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), the minority whip.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my leader and the Speaker and the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

Today we come together to mourn two fallen heroes, John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut. They laid down their lives so that others might live and in defense of all this Capitol represents. Their heroism reminds us, once again, of the great sacrifices people have made so that our democracy might endure.

We honor their memories today, just as they honored our democracy with years of dedication, hard work and bravery.

Many people take for granted the fine work the Capitol Police do under extraordinary circumstances. Every day, as the Speaker and as the leader and as Mr. DELAY have said, they are responsible for protecting hundreds of Members of Congress, thousands of staff, tens of thousands of tourists who come to visit Capitol Hill. They deal with people from all walks of life, the young, the old, from just about every country on earth, people on vacation and those in a hurry, and they do it with efficiency, with friendliness, with courtesy and with professionalism. It is a difficult job but they do it with pride and dignity.

Few of us ever pause to ponder how much courage they summon every single day. We saw just how much courage on Friday and how quickly and how bravely they reacted to save the lives of those around them.

All of us owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude, and none of us will ever forget the sacrifice of John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut. Our hearts go out to their families, Jacob's wife, Wen, and their children, Joseph, Janece, Janet

and Karen and William. And John's wife, Evelyn, and their children, Kristen, John and Daniel. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

We have been touched by the tremendous outpouring of emotion from the American people, the flowers on the Capitol steps, the tears of sadness and the visitors who have returned to their Capitol in reverence and mourning. The heroism of these two officers has stirred the soul of our Nation.

To people all over the world, this Capitol is the home of freedom. John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut gave their lives protecting it and all that it represents. Nothing we say today can ease the grief or bring them back. But we can honor their memory, and we can recommit ourselves to the work of democracy for which they died.

On a personal note, I had, as the other leaders did, because we, as has been mentioned, we come and we leave by that door, and over the years I have gotten to know Jacob Chestnut. He was a wonderful man. He had a bearing that represented everything that was right about this institution. He exuded dignity. If there was a word that captured him, it was his enormous dignity, his bearing.

□ 1745

He was, as we have heard, always kind to those who came into this building; he smiled when proper, but always giving the signal to those who entered that they were entering the citadel of democracy. He was a sweet man, a very gentle man. Many a night when we would work late and I would come down and he would be the only one at the door and it was closed to the visitors, we had a chance to chat, especially when my wife Judy was still gathering things up in the office.

He was a Vietnam veteran, as the Speaker mentioned. He gave 20 years of service to his country. We shared experiences serving in the Air Force, he as a military police and I as a cook. You would have to know something about the cooks and the military police to understand that relationship. But it was special.

He talked about his family, whom he loved enormously. He was a gardener, a good gardener who provided peppers and cucumbers and squash to the neighbors on a regular basis.

I was watching a clip on television the other night of a neighbor who talked so genuinely about him and what a wonderful, wonderful decent man he was. He was always volunteering to do work for his neighbors, mow their lawn, take care of things that needed to be taken care of in the neighborhood. He was described as the best husband and the best father you could think of. If you knew him, and I wish I knew him better, but leaving the Capitol each night for maybe 7, 8, or 9 years, you get to know someone and you engage in conversation, you knew that he, like John Gibson, had many friends, many friends.

I would like to just end with some words by Wallace Stegner. Wallace Stegner is a writer from the West, and he talked about friendship, and he said this:

Friendship is a relationship that has no formal shape. There are no rules or obligations or bonds as in marriage or the family. It is held together by neither law nor property nor blood. There is no glue in it but mutual liking. It is therefore rare.

These two fine people were not only liked, they were loved by many, many people. We will miss them. We will miss their duty to their work, their love of their family, their love of this institution. We thank them for their service. They will remain forever in our hearts.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the chief deputy whip.

Mr. HASTERT. I thank the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Speaker. I want to express my condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the families of our fallen heroes, J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson. I knew both these men and am proud to be able to call them friends.

I came to know J.J. Chestnut through his warm smile and his kind words and upbeat personality. Every afternoon and then later in the evening, he would greet me at his guard post and he would say, "Hello, Congressman HASTERT," and I would say, "Hello, Officer Chestnut," and for 4 years, we have developed a camaraderie, an understanding. I have a great deal of respect for him.

When we brought guests into the Capitol, my son and others, I would always make sure that I introduced them to Officer Chestnut. Because I thought that was the best that we could show of people who are here, who care about and are not always in the limelight, that care about this place, that care about the substance and the pride that this Capitol can show and the parts that many, many people play in keeping it a place of respect and honor. He was a professional certainly in every sense of the word.

As for John, our friendship grew over the many hours and particularly the late nights spent in the majority whip office. No matter the frantic pace or the pressure of the given moment, I always remember John as calm, yet focused, doing his job while we were counting votes or conducting whatever congressional business was going on at hand, and all the while John seemed to have a cheerful comment for the moment that would put folks at ease around him.

I always remember coming through that door, up until Friday afternoon, maybe six or eight or 10 times a day because that is kind of the way that I wind my way back from the floor, down the staircase and in that side door, and every time I would open the door, John would be there, he would look, he would check, see who it was, a cheerful

hello, but he was always vigilant, always there, something that I took for granted.

It was also something that even when Officer Chestnut would come through there and the stature that he would have, you took it for granted. Those were people that were there, they were there to protect you, and sometimes in your mind, you never think about what could happen, or what might happen.

As many of you already know, this tragedy hits particularly close to home. As the chief deputy whip, I work out of that whip's office as do a few of my staff. In fact, my staff and my wife were waiting for me to return from the floor that day. I can absolutely and positively say that were it not for the valor of Officer Chestnut and certainly Special Agent John Gibson, the lives of people who are very close to me would have been in jeopardy. This tragedy could have been much worse. It certainly comes as no surprise that when duty called, Officer Chestnut and John Gibson answered. Unfortunately, they and their families now must pay the ultimate price. They died so others could live.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Officer Chestnut's wife Wen and his children Joseph, Janece, Janet, Karen and William; and to John's wife Evelyn and their children Kristen, John and Daniel. As difficult as it is for the Chestnut and the Gibson families coping with this loss, I hope that they can take some comfort in knowing that their loved one's bravery protected thousands of others in the U.S. Capitol. I am not just talking about July 24 but each and every day that they put on the badge and went to work. Their actions are evidence that the system worked, even though a routine day turned terribly bad. For all Americans, we owe a debt of gratitude not only to officer J.J. Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson and their families but to all those who proudly wear a uniform in order to defend democracy and fight for our freedom. We should honor them, we must remember them, and most of all we must thank them. They are heroes and they deserve our most appreciative respect.

I have to say, I think about the things that we are able to do in this place from time to time. As an elected Member who serves in this people's House, we have some outstanding times, some times when the light shines, you can accomplish something, that short span of time, in 5 or 10 or whatever, however many years a person has as the right or the privilege of serving in this House. There are some short times that we can do some very great things. We live for those times.

And then you think of the people who help make this place work. The time for Officer Chestnut and John Gibson came on July 24. Their short time to excel and do the bravest thing that they could for their country and the people who work here, for their families and for the ideal of democracy

came in just a short period of time. When that challenge came, they excelled at that challenge. We could not ask them to do any more than they did.

So, with all our heads held high and respect for those gentlemen, I thank them, I thank their families, and we can even be proud of this institution.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I said earlier today that this was a sad and solemn occasion for us all. Obviously, it is. The discussions have led to that conclusion. Some knew these two brave men better than others. Let me suggest, however, all of us know their comrades in the defense of freedom and defense of our safety and the defense of civil order, without which democracy and freedom cannot flourish.

I see my very close friend on the floor, CURT WELDON from the State of Pennsylvania. He and I are honored to cochair the effort we know as the Fire Service Caucus. It honors men and women who respond to emergency, at time of crisis, not just to fire but to flood and to earthquake and to the cat in the tree, all types of emergencies that confront us.

As I sat here thinking of those who had spoken of these two brave officers, one who frankly was unable to make an immediate decision because the assailant did not give him that time, the other who had to make instantaneous decisions and responded in the best traditions, with the highest courage of men and women who serve in the police forces of our Nation. But as I thought further, each one of them made a decision that required courage and commitment to their fellow men and women in this country. That was a decision daily, as the minority leader has said, to get up, put on the uniform or their plainclothes gear and to put on a badge, a badge of honor, a badge of commitment, a badge indicating their courage in making that daily decision to defend civil order and democracy.

J.J. Chestnut was not given the opportunity by this assailant to make a decision of exactly how to respond. But J.J. Chestnut had already made that decision. He was at that door, he was at the perimeter, he was at risk voluntarily, placing himself in harm's way. That decision was a brave and honorable and courageous decision.

Detective John Gibson also had made a decision earlier that morning to be in harm's way. And when harm came, he was not found wanting. In fact, he was found to have the full measure of devotion and courage that he had pledged to give, not solely to TOM DELAY, not solely to the Congress of the United States, not solely to this building, this hallowed citadel of freedom and democracy, perceived by all the world to be the center of freedom and justice. He was there to defend that very idea, that torch of freedom.

Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg indicated that we had all, as we have all

come to honor those two men and their colleagues in the police forces of America, one of whom dies every other day in America, it is a real risk that they undertake, a knowledgeable risk that they undertake. Abraham Lincoln said it well, that we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate this field beyond that which those two brave men and their colleagues have done.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues in honoring the memory of J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson and honoring their decision to show the kind of courage and commitment necessary to maintain our democracy, our freedom, our civil society.

□ 1800

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DUNN).

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, it is my deep honor and privilege to rise today on behalf of the people I represent in the Eighth Congressional District of Washington State and myself and my family, and really on behalf of the Nation, to offer our deep gratitude for the heroism of J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson.

On Friday afternoon Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson embodied all that it means to be an American hero. They were ordinary people who went to extraordinary lengths to protect and defend freedom not just for Members of the large congressional family, but also for all Americans. These two brave officers literally laid down their lives so that others could live, and for that dedication of courage we are eternally grateful.

Every day in the people's House we are surrounded by the protection of the United States Capitol Police. In serving our country, the men and women of the police force touch all of us who visit and work in the Capitol. They become our friends, they become our colleagues, and of course they are our protectors. J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson epitomize this dedication of service and commitment to all that we value as good in this world.

Mr. Speaker, I considered J.J. a friend, as did countless Members and staff. My office is very near where he stands, and we had shared a few words the night before he died as we Members left the Capitol very close to midnight, and we talked about how the next day would be a little easier, and we did not know that that would be his very last night. Nor did I know that the next afternoon, the first shot that I heard from behind my closed door was the shot that took J.J.'s life.

No words we utter here today can help the Chestnut and Gibson families begin to heal the wounds they suffer from, but I do want to say to each family that as they grieve and seek support from God above, a Nation mourns their loss, the congressional family grieves with them and we will never forget them.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding this time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I come to praise the two valiant officers who sacrificed their lives on Friday, to comfort their families and to thank the Capitol Police who daily live up to their reputation as one of the finest police departments in the country.

On Friday, Officer Jacob Chestnut and Detective John Gibson showed that the reputation of the Capitol Police for dedicated professionalism is fully earned and richly deserved. These two men were part of a police force that operates at once like a friendly small town police department and a crack security force. It is hard to pull that off, but they do it every day.

Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson were devoted men who were part of a splendid force. In FY 1997 there were 286 reported crimes on the Capitol grounds, and the Capitol Police made arrests in 252 of them. What a record.

The Capitol Police patrol part of the Capitol Hill community as well. In the first 5 months of this year, these dedicated officers made 413 arrests in the community, up from 258 for the entire previous year.

Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson did not expect to lose their lives, but they clearly were prepared to do so. They knew that they were part of a department that protects the highest-profile accessible building in the Nation. They knew that this duty put them in harm's way. They were prepared to pay the price for this temple of democracy and all who visit or work here, and tragically they did. There are no words that fit that price.

May the Chestnut family and the Gibson family know that our hearts go out to them and that Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson have a place of honor among us no Member has ever attained.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding this time to me.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, there are a lot of young people in this country who have sung many, many times the last line of our National Anthem, and I take the floor primarily to let the Chestnut and the Gibson family know that three of my Health Subcommittee staff better understand the last phrase of the Star Spangled Banner because they were one thin wall away from the jungle, and the separation between civilization and the jungle is sometimes one individual.

That occurred on Friday, and no amount of words that we can say here will illustrate more to the young people of this country the deeds that are necessary to indeed make sure that we are the land of the free. Ann Marie Lynch, Allison Giles, and Bill Walters were in a room, crouched in fear, with one person between them and the jun-

gle, and they wanted me to come to the floor to thank the Gibson family and to recognize the heroics of J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson for making sure that they better understood in a moment of terror what sacrifice really means to keep us free.

Mr. Speaker, we all will continue to thank J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson, but what we have to remember is that it is not the word, it is the deed. When it was necessary, these two individuals paid the highest possible sacrifice that one individual can give another to keep them free: their lives. We will remember them and honor them.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE).

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, this building offers a great challenge, and that is it is a balance that has to be reached between where the people's elected representatives meet and where the people come to view their elected representatives and their Nation's heritage. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson met that test and kept that balance on Friday.

This is a sad and anguishing day. My wife, who has worked on this Hill longer than I have, I think, probably summed it up for me as we discussed this and thought about our thoughts and our prayers which were with the two families. She noted that two wives had lost their husbands as their husbands protected many other husbands and wives, and likewise children have lost their fathers as their fathers protected other children. There are thousands of children from each of our districts that come through these halls every day, and they owe their safety and protection to men and women like Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson.

Mr. Speaker, there is no way you can cope with loss like this except you try to hang onto the memories. And to the families that we know have those strong memories I would just say this: that as you have their memories to hang onto, please know that there is a much larger family and community that have those memories and they are hanging onto them too, and that their fathers and husbands and loved ones, Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson, those memories are strong in all of us, and they will live through that. And they live also through the democracy that is functioning through the visitors that are in the gallery today, through the people that are streaming through this Capitol, made safe by the sacrifice of Officers Chestnut and Gibson, whom we will remember.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on this solemn occasion I would like to join my colleagues and the people of the 11th Congressional District of Virginia to pay special tribute to Special Agent John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut who gave their lives on July 24 to keep our seat of democracy safe.

Special Agent Gibson was a resident of my congressional district. It is tragic that these brave men were cut down in the prime of their lives, but they will never be forgotten for the bravery that they displayed, the lives that they saved and the ultimate sacrifice that they made. Both men were dedicated 18-year veterans of the U.S. Capitol Police Force, and both were devoted to their families, and they will certainly be missed by everyone who knew them.

Special Agent Gibson was much more than a Capitol Police officer, however. He was a father, a husband, a sports fan who was beloved and respected in his community. He was Santa Claus at Christmas time. He was loving to his family, generous to his neighbors loyal to his job.

Special Agent Gibson will be remembered for all those things, but his enduring legacy will be heroism he displayed on that day. With his own life in danger, he acted quickly and selflessly to save others. He commanded the staff in the whip's office to hide while he faced the gunman alone, and he will be remembered as a great hero for sacrificing his own life to save the lives of others and for continuing to do his duty in the face of great peril. If Special Agent Gibson did not stop the gunman, this terrible tragedy would have spread and been even more severe.

Officer Chestnut was an avid vegetable gardener and shared his squash, his cucumbers and peppers with his friends and family. He was a Vietnam veteran and retired Air Force officer. Only two months before retirement, he planned to pursue his hobbies of fishing and golf. It is heartbreaking that his plans ended as abruptly and as brutally while guarding the interests of the Capitol. And he was known by his colleagues for his dedication as a police officer, for following the rules of his post.

I extend my sympathies to the family and friends that these heroes left behind, and I know that their wives and children will carry this loss with them forever but pray that they will be comforted by the gratitude of those that Special Agent Gibson and Officer Chestnut protected, and the families could be proud that these men defended the Nation's Capitol with bravery and honor.

A tragedy such as this reminds all of us of how fragile life can be. Even at the center of our Nation's democracy we cannot take our security for granted. We owe our freedom as Americans to our dedicated law enforcement officials and military service officers.

A tragedy such as this reminds all of us of how fragile life can be. Even at the center of our Nation's democracy we cannot take our security for granted. We owe our freedom as Americans to our dedicated law enforcement officials and our military service members. This fragility reminds us to be grateful of the many gifts and freedoms that we enjoy, many won really hard-fought. We are fortunate to have had Special Agent Gibson and Officer

Chestnut on the Capitol Police Force who are well trained and loyal to their duties. When called upon to put their own safety and life above those they were sworn to protect, they did their job, no questions, no excuses. They did what they were trained to do. These men exemplified the best in law enforcement and the best in America. Their excellent work assures that Americans can visit this Capitol in peace and security. In death they will continue to serve as genuine heroes and role models for their colleagues and for all those who believe in the American dream.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. BALDACCI).

(Mr. BALDACCI asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the whip for yielding this time to me.

I have to say that when I heard about this at the airport I was shocked, as we were leaving on Friday, at what had transpired here. I immediately called the Sergeant at Arms Office, who was in a leadership meeting, to get a briefing on the casualties and circumstances surrounding all of it and thinking that we had just been here a short while ago to have this tragedy occur.

My heart and prayers and sympathies go out to the families of John Gibson and Officer J.J. Chestnut, for they made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms and liberty and put their lives on the line, and their families will never be able to erase that burden and that void in their lives. And I appreciate our House leadership and the leadership of Congress and what they are going to do with all of us to make sure that as much as we can do we will do for these families and that we will never forget.

□ 1815

I want to commend all of the Capitol Police, and particularly the officers that all responded during that circumstance, from all over, because I heard from them as they all came here together to shoulder and support each other.

Sometimes we as Members take for granted their esteemed professionalism and the caliber of that service that they perform on a daily basis. But the Sergeant at Arms Office, the Metropolitan Police, and all of the services that huddled together, and how proud I was in the response and the timely information that was dispensed to the people as to what was taking place.

It was a very tragic moment in the people's House, but it was a moment in which people pulled together, and I know that will be something that will be an enduring quality as we all pull together on both sides of the aisle throughout America to stand there with these families as they have endured the ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority leader for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, the entire country was shocked and saddened to learn of the terrible tragedy that happened on Friday afternoon, when U.S. Capitol Police Special Agent John Gibson and Capitol Police Officer Jacob J. Chestnut were killed in the line of duty.

I want to express my condolences to the families of these two brave men. They were both true heroes. They gave their lives to protect the lives of the rest of us.

The Capitol is really like a campus in many respects; people all know each other, it is a small community. So when a tragedy like this hits, it affects all of us very deeply. There are no words that can adequately express the sorrow and the grief that we all feel as a community over this terrible loss.

My dad was a Philadelphia policeman for 20 years, and I know how difficult the job can be and the uncertainty that begins each day for the officer's family.

My hearts goes out to the families of Special Agent Gibson and Officer Chestnut, and all of the men and women of the Capitol Hill Police Department and all of the policemen around the country that give their lives. Our heart also goes out to Angela Dickerson, the young woman who was wounded during the shooting. We also recognize the trauma and the experience by so many others who were there on Friday afternoon. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I find it such a privilege to rise today in this hallowed House of Representatives, the people's House.

I think when we left here Friday there were some harsh words exchanged between the caucuses, and we rise today to pay tribute to two men who may have done more to pull us together, to realize what this building is all about.

I bring condolences from the district that I represent, far away from here, the central coast of California. For those of us who work here every day, I think sometimes we take what we do in this building for granted.

Following the tragic shooting just 48 hours ago, Capitol Police Officer Jacob Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson I think have given us all pause to think more seriously and more respectfully of the job we do in this building, because this is the people's building and this is the people's House. Just look at the visitors that are outside this hall today, coming into the Capitol, paying tribute with flowers, notes and condolences.

Yes, the government must go on. It never stops. But sometimes in history it pauses for a moment, it pauses to pay tribute. Officer Chestnut and Spe-

cial Agent Gibson gave their lives while standing their duty. For this building, its workers, and, more importantly, this Nation, we pause to honor them. Their lives were not lost in vain, because, for now, our Nation joins in mourning their loss. Perhaps today our democracy is a little bit stronger as each American reflects on the sacrifice these men gave.

Each of us knows the pain. We have all lost loved ones. We know how much Wen Ling Chestnut and her five children, Joseph, Janece, Janet, Karen and William, and Evelyn Gibson and her three children, Kristen, John and Daniel, feel the sudden emptiness of losing their husbands and fathers.

My district, this Nation, joins in their loss and in the mourning we will give tomorrow.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I consider it an honor and a privilege to be able to join my colleagues in support of this resolution, H. Con. Res. 311, honoring two American heroes, our slain U.S. Capitol Police Officer Jacob "J.J." Chestnut and U.S. Capitol Police Special Agent, John M. Gibson. These two dedicated police officers gave their lives in the line of duty to protect our Capitol, its visitors and all of us in this body.

We join in extending our heartfelt prayers and condolences to the families of these two American heroes, our distinguished Capitol Police officers. J.J. Chestnut always had a ready smile and a friendly word for all of us. His warm personality and assistance will be sadly missed by all of us in the Congress and by the visitors to the Capitol.

John Gibson will long be remembered as a hero who gave his life in preventing further tragedy from occurring. I remember John's visits to my office with his partner, Bob Vitarelli, the husband of my staff member. His dedication as a police officer is vividly remembered.

Yes, the Capitol is the people's House, and it would be an outrage if all Americans could not feel safe in visiting our Capitol.

Let us bear in mind the statistics disclose that every other day, another man or woman is killed while serving as a law enforcement official, illustrating the incredible risk that these dedicated men and women of the police undertake to keep our Nation safe. It is hoped that our words and actions on this resolution in honoring Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson will remind all Americans to recognize the importance of the work and action of the Capitol Police. They will long be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

Let us reflect that their lives, like so many of our police officers across our Nation, are dedicated to protecting the rule of law and our free and democratic institutions. All of us who cherish these important values in institutions in America join in honoring these two dedicated, courageous officers for their ultimate sacrifice in helping to preserve our institutions and legacy just a few days ago in this very building. These officers, Chestnut and Gibson, symbolize the very best of our Nation.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN).

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Jacob "J.J." Chestnut and Special Agent John M. Gibson of the United States Capitol Police Force. Officers Chestnut and Gibson made the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives this past Friday in the protection of this building and this body.

July 24, 1998, will long be remembered as a dark day in the history of the United States Capitol. However, Mr. Speaker, I also feel that July 24 should be remembered as a day of pride for the United States Capitol Police Department. When the gunman entered the document door entrance Friday afternoon, he was detected immediately by Officer Chestnut and contained very quickly thereafter by Special Agent Gibson, avoiding possible injury to all but one of the many innocent visitors and staff in the area.

Because of their top-notch training and professionalism with which they carry out their duties each day, a much larger potential tragedy was averted. Their training and procedures worked, and last Friday's successful apprehension of a gunman, however tragic, is a testament to the skill and professionalism of the United States Capitol Police.

The loss of John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut is very difficult for all of us. They were not strangers protecting us and the millions of visitors to the Capitol each year; they were our friends. They were members of our community.

Capitol Police officers are people we see each day and warmly exchange a smile and a greeting with. Very rarely do we give acknowledgment to the fact that at any given moment, any one of these brave men and women are prepared to put their life on the line, to place their body in the way of a bullet to protect us, our staffs and the many visitors to the Capitol each day.

Mr. Speaker, the Members of the Capitol Police Force not only deserve our condolences today for the loss of two of their fellow officers, they also deserve our gratitude for their efforts in making our Capitol, a symbol of freedom throughout the world, a safe place to work and visit.

Mr. Speaker, as a former county sheriff and a 13-year member of the Fraternal Order of Police, I have a special appreciation for the sadness and

difficulty experienced by the survivors of a fallen officer. John Gibson left behind a wife and three children. J.J. Chestnut is survived by a wife and five children. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of Officers Gibson and Chestnut in this most difficult and trying time.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON).

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during the past 12 years I have had the honor of serving this institution, I have had the pleasure of working in a very close relationship with public safety officials throughout America and especially here on the Hill. In fact, working with our very capable Sergeant at Arms, Bill Livingood, and Chief of Police, Gary Abrecht, I have been able to see our officers not just in the tragedy of this past weekend, but responding to fires and EMS calls and calls for bomb threats in our buildings. In fact, just 3 years ago, the distinguished gentleman from Maryland and I called together, with the Sergeant at Arms and our Police Chief, almost 40 of our Capitol Hill Police officers to give them citations and thank them for protecting the lives of our staffers and Members in what could have been a very tragic situation in the Longworth Building.

Mr. Speaker, as we come here tonight to pay tribute to these very special people, there is really a message for our entire Nation. Mr. Speaker, that message is for all America: As we as a Nation, in our 200 years of existence, look out for heroes, we sometimes look to Hollywood or we look to our ball fields, our football fields and baseball fields, and we get frustrated because we cannot find them there.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this tragedy reminds us that our heroes are not in Hollywood, they are not on TV, they are not on our ball fields. They are in our neighborhoods. They are our law enforcement officials, our sheriffs, our fire officials, our EMS personnel, who every day risk their lives, and who, unfortunately, time and again, lose their lives, as these two brave heroes did last Friday.

I join with our colleagues today, Mr. Speaker, in recognizing that we celebrate the heroes of this institution, the heroes of our neighborhood, who we have lived with and worked with for the time we have spent working in this Nation's Capitol.

I rise to join with my colleagues in honoring the families and the memory of J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson, two real American heroes.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply moved by the untimely deaths of these brave heroes, who have shown both valor and bravery in a time like this.

Officer J.J. Chestnut and Mr. John Gibson, a Special Agent, we honor them for caring about us. We honor them for caring about the American people. We honor them ourselves today for keeping us safe and sound.

I do respect with a great deal of respect the Capitol Police. To me they are an elite corps. We see them every day. They represent to us the best that is in America. Mr. Chestnut and Mr. Gibson showed us what real bravery is all about.

There is a saying that the measure of a man's life is not how he died, but how he lived, and these two men lived for our protection.

I am thinking about the words of Walt Whitman:

O Captain! My Captain! Our fearful trip is done,

The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won,

The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,

While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring;

But O heart! heart! heart!

O the bleeding drops of red,

Where on the deck my Captain lies,

Fallen cold and dead.

O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells;

Rise up—for you the flag is flung—for you the bugle trills,

For you bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths—for you the shores a-crowding,

For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;

Here Captain! dear father!

This arm beneath your head!

It is some dream that on the deck,

You've fallen cold and dead.

My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still,

My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will,

The ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its voyage closed and done,

From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won;

Exult O shores, and ring O bells!

But I with mournful tread,

Walk the deck my Captain lies,

Fallen cold and dead.

□ 1830

Goodbye to you, Mr. J.J. Chestnut; goodbye to you, Mr. Gibson. We will never forget your bravery and your valor.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I thank the minority leader and the two whips for offering this tribute to two fallen heroes, J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson, two great friends.

To these officers I would just like to personally thank both of you for the comfort that you and all of the other police officers give to all of us, but particularly my staff up in the Committee on Rules in the third floor gallery

there that work the wee hours of the night so many times when there is not too much around to protect these loyal staff that work these late hours, except the police officers that are always, always on guard.

It just is so sad that we have to be here today, because no finer police officers ever, ever served this Capitol. My colleagues have all mentioned today about what great individual human beings they both were. We will never forget them as police officers, but more importantly, we will never forget them as friends.

Mr. Speaker, there is a stanza from a Memorial Day poem I think that really typifies the kind of heroes that we pay tribute to today. That poem goes something like this: "I am the unknown soldier, and maybe I died in vain, but if I were alive and my country called, I would do it all over again."

These are two individuals that I think personify that stanza, that poem.

I would just like to say to Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson that you mean so much to all of us, but you did give that last full measure of devotion for your country and for the protection of just decent, innocent human beings, and you paid the ultimate price for it. You are truly heroes, and may God bless both of you.

To your families, we just can never, never, ever repay you for the sacrifices of these two heroes. But you must always know, please know, that you can always call on any one of us ever in the future if we can ever, ever be of any kind of service at all to any of you.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), the distinguished chief deputy whip.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two American heroes, Officer Jacob "J.J." Chestnut, and Special Agent John Gibson. Mr. Speaker, this is a very sad day, for these two men, members of the Capitol Hill Police Force, gave their lives last Friday in defense of this, the people's House. They are heroes. They are patriots. They put their bodies on the line. They are the victims of a senseless act of violence. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of these two brave officers, and to all of the members of the Capitol Hill police family.

These young men and women who provide security for the Capitol, for the people's House, are like members of our own family. They are part of the Capitol Hill family. When we are here in session, we see them every day, sometimes many times a day. We mourn with the members of the Capitol Hill Police Force.

The men and women of the Capitol Hill Police Force put their lives on the line every day just as police officers in so many other cities and communities all across America. Today, Mr. Speaker, we pay tribute, we pay honor, to Of-

ficers Chestnut and Gibson, but we also say a prayer and give thanks for the safety of people serving in uniform everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, God bless John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut. We are forever in their debt. They will never, ever be forgotten.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS).

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Most people of America did not know Officer Gibson and they did not know Officer Chestnut, but they know what they did here, and now most people in America honor and respect and really know these officers.

Every 48 hours in this country somewhere we have a police officer who loses his life or her life in the line of duty. It is unfortunate that it takes a tragedy like this to move the word "hero" from the sports page back to the news page.

Many years ago, I lost a very, very close friend of mine whom I was with about an hour before his death. He was very young. And I remember at the service the story that I think we can relate here very easily, and I think it applies here.

His grandpa was an old cowboy, I live in the mountains of Colorado, and he was weathered, very seasoned, very wise. I was crying, I was very upset. And much like here, I think his comments rest. Those comments were, despite all of this tragedy, do not be too sad, because all that has really happened here is that Officer Gibson and Officer Chestnut have just saddled up their horses, they have ridden ahead on the trail, they have set up camp, and they have put the coffee on for us.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SKAGGS).

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

There are so many things that we all want to try to express at this difficult time. We all want to say "thank you" to Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson. Thank you for your dedication to duty, your bravery, your courage, your heroism. We want to say to their families how very, very sorry we are for your awful loss. We want to honor you as we honor your husbands and your fathers.

We want to say to all Capitol Police that we are grateful for all you do to keep this Capitol safe for all who work and visit here. We offer sympathy to you for the loss of your brother officers.

This congressional community feels this tragedy so deeply. It was an assault on each of us who is privileged to serve here. We all are touched by the great sacrifice of these two good men who died for us.

This life is fragile; this democracy is fragile. These two great Americans

helped so profoundly to protect these fragile and precious things. They gave, as Lincoln said, their last full measure of devotion. May they rest in peace and all the honor we can grant them held in God's generous grace.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to express my very deepest sympathy to the wives, the children, and the families of Officer Gibson and Officer Chestnut. Their tragic deaths have a very special significance to me as a Member of Congress. These men gave their lives to protect me, other Members, staff, and visitors to our Nation's Capital.

I cannot think of any greater sacrifice than they gave. They gave up their lives to protect ours. With their deaths this Capitol building and this Congress will never be the same.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, I commend these great civil servants who have given the ultimate sacrifice for their fellow men. They acted with courage, they acted unhesitatingly, with devotion to their job and their duty.

Together, we come this evening to honor the memory of Officers Chestnut and Gibson. I join my colleagues, their colleagues, our staff and the American people to say thank you to our fallen heroes.

We also now have a new appreciation for all our civil servants and all of our Capitol Police Officers who put their lives at risk each day. To each and every one of these dedicated civil servants we say, thank you. Thank you for a job well done.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN).

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my most heartfelt sympathy to the families of Officer Jacob Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson. On behalf of my constituents and my family, my deepest gratitude for their service to our Nation. They died doing their jobs.

How many times have we told our constituents as we take them on tours, just ask one of the officers? How many times do we pass the officer coming in for a vote or going to a meeting, say hello, look at their eyes and pass them by, never knowing that in a moment they could be gone as a result of some violent act?

I, like many of my colleagues here, have spent a good part of my life working in the Capitol, first as congressional staff and now as a Member of this body, the people's House. It is easy for us to take for granted what a magnificent Capitol this is and what it symbolizes to the Nation and to the world and forget the price that has been paid throughout our history to preserve freedom and democracy. Last

Friday afternoon, we were reminded all too sadly of that price.

Last Friday's violent assault was an attack not just on Members, congressional employees and visitors, but it was an assault on our Nation's most cherished values. Random violence permeated the very halls that give life and meaning to the practice of democracy. Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson and to the brave men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police who risk their lives to protect this Capitol, the people who come here, and all that it represents every day.

Just as the two whom we mourn today, they put their lives on the line every day to protect our democracy and the rule of law from those who would change our laws or government through violence rather than civil debate and fair, open and legitimate elections. Just as importantly, they protect the Capitol so that all the world's citizens can watch the Congress and monitor the business of democracy.

How many times have we had visitors from other countries who say they cannot believe how open our Capitol is? It is because of those like Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson and the fact that they gave their lives so democracy could live.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to the salute by all of the American people and all of their representatives to the fallen heroes of the Capitol Police Force, Officer Jacob Joseph Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson.

How appropriate it is indeed that the bodies of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson will lie in honor in the Rotunda of the Capitol that they honored each day with their work, the Capitol whose many visitors and those of us who have the honor of working here, these officers risked their lives day in and day out to protect, and indeed, they gave their lives to protect.

□ 1845

It is not often, Mr. Speaker, that we have the honor of paying tribute to genuine heroes in our midst. It is with the most profound reverence and admiration that all of us in this Congress stand as one tonight to pay our respects to these fallen heroes, Officers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson, and to stand in solidarity with their families, to whom we commit our endless friendship and for whom we offer our prayers.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the chief deputy whip.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues tonight to pay tribute to Officer J.J. Chestnut and Special Agent

Gibson for their bravery in last week's tragic shooting. Those of us who work in the United States Capitol know the dedication of all of the U.S. Capitol Police. We see them each and every day in the halls, by the doors, by the parking garages. They are our friends, and indeed, they are our protectors.

The U.S. Capitol is truly the people's House. It is among the most open and accessible in the world. The Capitol Police make that possible, while protecting the safety of those who work and who visit here. They do not just protect the visitors who come here every day, or the Members of the Congress, or our staffs. They protect the ideal of freedom that our Nation was founded upon.

We all know that if not for their bravery and swift reaction, many more innocent lives would have been lost. J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson truly made the ultimate sacrifice, and we will never forget them for what they have done.

My heart goes out to the Chestnut and Gibson families as they struggle to come to terms with this terrible loss. Words are often meaningless at this time, but I know that we all hope that they know that they are in our hearts and our prayers during this difficult time.

I also wanted to extend my sympathies to the entire U.S. Capitol Police Force, officers who have been carrying on their duties while carrying a huge burden of grief. We thank them for everything that they do. They are all heroes.

On a personal note, I would just like to say that several Members, including myself, were in the press gallery at the time of the incident. We were in the Capitol, and the Capitol Police came in to secure our safety and to escort us to safety. I say thank you to those officers who came in to secure our safety. I say thank you, and my family says thank you.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the distinguished majority leader yielding me the time.

I think we all from time to time step back and wonder what is the view of the American people of this great Capitol and the work that is done in both bodies. Ofttimes the shrill voices displayed on C-Span dwell upon the negative, those things that divide us. Indeed, all too often we find ourselves in the well of the House exchanging dialogue that certainly is far from the picture that is being displayed at this moment.

Is it not a tragedy that we have a circumstance where two of our very, very finest have given their lives on behalf of the country, as well as for us, and that such a tragedy in a different way causes us to pause and recognize that we are a family; that we work together, and all of us have much more in common than we have in difference.

Indeed, the men and women who work in the Capitol, the Members of both bodies, come here in commitment to our country in a belief that by being here, we can make a difference in peoples' lives and strengthen our Nation. It is very, very important that we take away from this a lasting memory of this family that we all are a part of. Members of Congress, professional staff, police officers, support personnel, all of us are a part of a great American family.

Tomorrow John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut will be honored in a ceremony befitting the finest of America's fallen leaders. I must say that my last picture of John Gibson reminded me of this in a special way. I was coming back from the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, walking towards the House floor for a vote, walking past the office of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), and John Gibson said, "How are you doing, Congressman," as he always does; a reminder that we are in this together.

Let us in the months ahead remember these two great heroes, and at the same time, have them remind us that our family is much, much more important than the differences we may have day in and day out.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson worked among us on Capitol Hill every day helping tourists, providing directions, greeting visitors, and protecting our lives. Because they did their jobs so well, we hardly ever thought of the danger that always lies just below the surface of all law enforcement activities.

The tragic events of last Friday demonstrated to the Nation and the world the full peril of the law enforcement profession that is so often hidden from the public, but carried with quiet resolve by those responsible for our safety.

Officer Chestnut planned to retire in September, ending an 18-year career with the Capitol Hill Police Department. His ready smile was a constant greeting to Capitol visitors. His deep, warm, velvety voice that always made you smile; his warm, helping manner, was familiar to all of us. In fact, he was writing out directions for a tourist when the gunman entered the Capitol and shot him in the head. His last act was one of professional and selfless service.

Officer Gibson was from Massachusetts, and was married to the niece of our good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. JOE MOAKLEY). While detailed to the majority whip's office, he impressed everyone with his quiet dignity and dedication. His dedication led him to save many lives while bringing down the gunman, and in so doing, lay down his own life.

All who work in and visit the Capitol Hill complex owe a special debt of gratitude to these brave officers, but all Americans honor them today. In this citadel of democracy, the United States Capitol, whether we perform the tasks of government or celebrate our historical heritage, we walk freely. We can do so because of the dedication and skill of our Capitol Hill police officers. Officers Chestnut and Gibson performed their duties with excellence, and died in the noble exercise of their profession.

Today we mourn their deaths, sympathize with and pray for their families, and rededicate ourselves to reducing violence, punishing lawlessness, and celebrating the qualities of courage and sacrifice that stand as the ultimate testament to the lives of these two heroes.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Fourth Congressional District of Connecticut, my family, and staff, I want to express our love and admiration for "two heroes of democracy," as our Speaker described them, Detective John Gibson and Officer J.J. Chestnut, and to their dear families, John's wife, Evelyn, and his three children, Kristen, John, and Daniel; and Officer Chestnut's wife, Wen Ling, and his five children, Joseph, Janece, Janet, Karen, and William.

To them I say, your husband and father was required, as protector, to guard this place, and at the same time, as ambassador, to welcome with open arms the people to their House, all the people. John and JJ fulfilled both tasks with extraordinary distinction.

I thank them for protecting our majority whip, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TOM DELAY), and his devoted staff, and for protecting all of us who serve here and all who visit here.

Behind the Speaker pro tempore is the American flag, with its 50 white stars embedded in a sea of blue and outlined by brilliant red and white stripes. As we look at our flag we could think of how those stars came into being. As we look at our flag we could think of the great history of our nation. If we were a veteran, we might think of our buddies who fought for this flag and never came home, and of their families who never got to talk or hug them again.

When I look at our flag and pledge allegiance to it when we begin each session, I will think of Detective John Michael Gibson and I will think of Officer Jacob Joseph Chestnut, and I will think of their families, with deep humility, gratitude and love.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN).

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in expressing our sincerest condolences to the families of Officer

Jacob J.J. Chestnut and to Detective William Gibson, and to the entire Capitol Hill Police Department.

As is the case with many people who are employed here on the Hill, Officer Chestnut was actually a constituent of mine. He was a kind man, a gentle man, a man who is beloved by his fellow officers. He was a man within months of retirement. The tragedy, obviously, was compounded.

Saturday, I had the occasion to visit with his family. I spoke with his son, and the pain he was experiencing was very obvious. I also had a great deal of admiration for the way the son stood tall in his father's spirit and greeted visitors and accepted their well wishes.

Today we all speak with a great deal of eloquence and admiration for our fallen heroes, but I often think of how sometimes, in fact, in our own sense of self-importance we did not even take the time to speak or to say hello or we rushed past because we are too busy with our concerns.

Sometimes when issues of compensation or work conditions arose, we were slow to respond. I am hopeful that as part of our gratitude and part of our expression of sentiments, we will recognize the role of the Capitol Police and acknowledge them in our actions as well as through our words.

In that vein, I would like to compliment and thank the leadership of both parties for joining in according these fallen heroes the high honor of lying in honor, and also in according their families the practical honor of seeing that their expenses are taken care of. I think it speaks well of the sense of this House.

Words are inadequate on occasions such as this. To the families, I commend the power of prayer. That is perhaps the greatest solace of all.

These men met the challenge in preserving the safety and the accessibility of this House, the People's House. They stand as true American heroes. May we never forget their sacrifice and may they rest in peace.

Mr. ARMY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. HORN).

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker I thank the majority leader for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, last Friday's tragedy continues to haunt our Capitol Hill community and our Nation. For those of us who work every day under the protection provided by the Capitol Police, it is particularly disturbing and saddening. My condolences and prayers go out to the family members and the friends of Officer J.J. Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson.

Without Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson, more lives would have been lost on Friday afternoon. They are heroes in every sense of that word, and deserve our deepest gratitude for their ultimate sacrifice.

One can only wish that the heroism and the bravery of the Capitol Police Force could have been brought to our

Nation's attention under less tragic circumstances. The Capitol Police officers are our friends and our colleagues. The protection of freedom is a goal that we share with them. They work to ensure that the Members of Congress can do their jobs without fear of intimidation or harm.

On a more personal note, I have the highest appreciation for the Capitol Police, for the assistance that they have provided to me and to my staff, with great skill, courtesy and professionalism.

Few of us are asked to risk our lives in the performance of our daily job duties. All of our Nation's law enforcement officers face that risk of death every day. Each day they leave their homes and their families to go to work, knowing that they might not return home. They accept the risk of death as the price of our freedom and the ability to live in a peaceful society. Because of their courageous selflessness, they do all of this without hesitation or complaint.

For elected Members, our support staff and the Capitol Police officers, Capitol Hill is our workplace and in many cases at least our part-time neighborhood. This tragedy hits close to home for all of us. We all have walked countless times in the area where the shootings occurred. We have taken our families, friends and constituents on tours that pass through that part of the Capitol. I had one of my staff with individuals there at that time and the police protected them.

The Capitol is the people's House. There is no more recognizable symbol of democracy than the dome and the flags flying over each wing, and it is the hallmark of democracy and the right of all Americans to come to Washington to meet their representatives, and Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson have helped thousands of people over the last few years in every possible way. We must continue the openness of the symbols of democracy that they died to protect.

□ 1900

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KLINK).

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I find myself here in the Chamber transfixed and moved by the statements of all of my colleagues today, and very proud that I have an opportunity to pay tribute to our two fallen friends.

In my previous career as a journalist, I was so proud of my friendships with police officers. I had been in that career only 3 years when, in 1972, two Penn Hills police officers were gunned down. They were shot to death in the parking lot of a shopping mall just east of Pittsburgh by, of all people, a suspected shoplifter.

I thought I would never see such a scene as that again, and I thought that I would never feel those feelings again, to see two keepers of the peace struck down suddenly, unexpectedly, needlessly; to think of the wives and the

children and the community left behind as those officers made the ultimate sacrifice.

But here now we have this tragic shooting of two police officers here in the Nation's Capitol inside the Capitol building. It shows us again that that thin blue line that protects each and every one of us bleeds red, and that the hearts of those peacekeepers beat bravely, beat courageously on duty, and now they are silenced. They will beat no more. Except they will beat in our unending love for them, our memories of them, and our appreciation for the sacrifices that they made on our behalf.

Our sympathies and God's blessing on their families, and our prayers that their souls may know enduring peace for all eternity.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FOX).

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), our majority leader, for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, it is a person of astonishing character who takes up a profession of not merely public service but defense of the public. Those who preserve public safety and enforce our Nation's laws should be held in nothing but the highest regard. Each day brings uncertainty as their job places them between the public and potential threats to their well-being. Every law enforcement officer, these men and women who wear the blue uniform on the Federal, State, and local level, and every firefighter and every member of our Armed Services and emergency medical service personnel, has made a conscious decision to fulfill the highest level of public service, placing their lives on the line so that others may be safe.

Detective John Gibson and Officer J.J. Chestnut were among those individuals of astonishing character who worked each and every day in defense of liberty guarding our Capitol, its staff, its visitors, and the freedom for which it stands.

These officers are true heroes of democracy, and every American owes them a deep debt of gratitude. I believe that is one debt we will never be able to adequately repay. If not for their quick and courageous action, more civilians and officers could have been injured or killed. They gave their lives to protect hundreds of tourists, staff, and Members of Congress who visit and work in the People's House.

I believe that we need to remember their families, their friends, and our special prayers also go out to their fellow officers who have lost not only colleagues but friends, brothers, and family as well.

The tragic events of July 24 amounted to a senseless tragedy which we may never fully understand. But the action of Officers Chestnut and Gibson and all those who helped to apprehend the gunman, assist the injured, and evacuate

the building, truly underscore the dedication, commitment, and astonishing character of these heroes of democracy.

John Michael Gibson and J.J. Chestnut, we will never forget you.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER).

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, Friday, July 24, 1998, will be remembered as a tragic chapter in the history of our Capitol. A lone gunman, Russell Weston, rushed into an east entrance of this building we call the "People's House" and in a few brief moments of terrifying exchange of gunfire, took the lives of United States Capitol Police Officers John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut.

These men had dedicated the last 18 years of their lives protecting the safety of the Members of Congress, our staffs, and our constituents who visit these halls by the hundreds of thousands each year.

On that fateful Friday, Officers Gibson and Chestnut made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives that others might live. No words can adequately praise their heroism or their courage, nor can we fully express our sorrow and sympathy to their families whose loss is so personal and difficult to understand.

This afternoon, as my wife Ginny and I joined with hundreds of Americans who have placed flowers on the east steps of the Capitol in expression of sympathy to the families of these two men, it seemed clear that all Americans are reaching out today to the families of these two brave Americans. Their commitment to duty and their unflinching willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice humbles each of us who were beneficiaries of their protections.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with the Chestnut and Gibson families. May their sorrow be tempered in time by an ever-deepening pride that they died in service to our country that others might live.

The Scriptures say that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for a friend. Our friends, John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut, loved their families, they loved their country, and they showed each of us what love really means. May God rest their souls and may we ever cherish their memory.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCREST).

Mr. GILCREST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, it is a little quieter today in Washington in thoughtful reference for Mr. Gibson and Mr. Chestnut. Our hearts collectively here in the Nation's Capitol reach out to the families of Mr. Gibson and Mr. Chestnut, to comfort as best we can their sorrow. These two brave men have not only saved our lives, but these two brave

men have changed our lives and this place forever.

Their friendly presence and their warm smile will be with us as a Nation as we go to work, as we go to school, as we travel through the hallowed places of this country. We will feel the presence that Mr. Gibson and Mr. Chestnut have left.

A summer afternoon at a ball game, we will feel their friendly presence. During the gentle spring rain or a cold winter night, we will feel their warm smile. When we experience joy, they and their spirit will be with us. When we experience sorrow, these two men will be there as well.

Mr. Chestnut and Mr. Gibson, their lives were the essence of humility, commitment, compassion, faith, and love. They have set the mark for all of us to follow.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), chief deputy whip.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, we have gathered in these hallowed Chambers to pay tribute to two fallen heroes, Officer Jacob Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson. When tragedy strikes, we are often left groping for answers. Over the past couple of days, we have all asked ourselves the same haunting questions: Why has this tragedy occurred? Why have people of such valor suddenly been taken from our lives? Why have these devoted husbands and fathers been taken from their families?

We may never have adequate answers to these questions, but we must work to ensure that they did not die in vain.

Mr. Speaker, that means that after paying our respects and mourning we must remember that it was a man not alone but with a gun who committed this tragedy. Ensuring that they did not die in vain means that we recommit ourselves to the freedom and values they sought to defend.

It can be said that they defended a Capitol, a building, a national landmark. It can be said that they defended those who work and visit here, and that would be true as well. But in my mind what they were really defending is our most precious gift as Americans, the freedom to come to the seat of our government, the most open and democratic of the entire world, and see it, speak to it, or even peacefully protest against it.

It is the job of the living to remember their sacrifice and to ensure that violence never wins over the principles this country was founded upon. Now and forever, the Capitol must remain a sanctuary for democracy and for the American people.

May God bless the families of Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson. They are in our hearts, our thoughts, and in the prayers of the people of the 13th District of New Jersey.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAPPAS).

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in expressing my deep sympathy to the families of Mr. Chestnut and Mr. Gibson. I had the opportunity to know each of them, and admired them. They are an example, Mr. Speaker, of all of the Capitol Hill Police who are here each day to protect me, to protect my staff, to protect the literally hundreds if not thousands of constituents from Central New Jersey that visit this building each year. And, in fact, this causes each of us to pause and to think of and hopefully express in various ways our deep debt of gratitude to all law enforcement officials.

This past weekend, being home, Friday night, Saturday, Sunday, interacting with the people of Central New Jersey, it was very moving to me to see how many people approached me to ask me about the tragedy. They asked me if I knew these two gentlemen, asked me what I thought. How moved they were. How saddened they were by this tragedy. And what a legacy that is to these two gentlemen, to the men and women that they have served with, and to all law enforcement officials across the country.

Yesterday morning in church, my pastor asked me to say a word about what took place. When I did, I was overcome, as so many of us have been, with emotion because that could have been me. I could have been somewhere else, could have been in the line of fire, and I was not, by the grace of God.

What these two gentlemen did in trying to preserve the peace, trying to preserve not just this edifice but to preserve and protect the people who work and visit here, is a tribute to them and to what they did so selflessly for all of us.

May God bless their memory.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SISISKY).

Mr. SISISKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, there are no words to express my sorrow about the tragic deaths of Capitol Police Officers Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson.

That they died in the line of duty while serving their country and protecting this hallowed shrine of democracy can provide little solace to their families. For their families, the lives of loving husbands and fathers have been taken forever. There are no words, no sentiment that can make up this terrible loss to their wives and children.

I think it is safe to say that every Member of the Congress, every Senator, every staff member, every visitor has taken for granted the safety of this place and this building. That is no longer the case. And if we ever reach the point where our safety is ever once

again taken for granted, it will be largely because their dedicated fellow officers do their duty like they always have and once more restore the sense of peace and protection to these hallowed halls.

The risks that are accepted by these officers on a daily basis, as well as the courage they are prepared to display, as did Officers Chestnut and Gibson last Friday, should be humbling to us all.

A Bible story about those who gave their lives for others says, and I quote, "They were beloved and pleasant in life and in death they were together; they were swifter than eagles, and they were strong as lions."

It is our responsibility to love and support their families, protect and defend their country, defend the institution for which they gave their lives, and honor their memory forever. But those who survive face the toughest challenge. And I want their families to know that all Americans are deeply grateful for their sacrifice for us and for this Nation.

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Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the majority leader for according the Members this time to pay tribute to two fallen heroes. I join my colleagues in reiterating what most are no doubt feeling today, that sadly our Nation has lost two American heroes.

When I first heard of the shooting last Friday and subsequently about the tragic deaths of Capitol Police Officers Chestnut and Gibson, I was reminded of a point I tried to make more than 5 months earlier during a speech in this very Chamber.

When I took to the floor last February, I paid tribute to the Capitol Police force and another selfless officer, David Lyon, who rescued the passenger of a car which are plunged into the Potomac River. I did not realize how appropriate my words would be these many months later.

At that time I said, It is important to note that the Capitol Police force who man security around this building are of the finest caliber and quality. They do serve the public and the people of the United States of America in not only protecting our guests and visitors, which number in the millions on an annual basis, but also the property that we consider sacred, this Chamber and the monuments that surround this wonderful complex.

I added at that time, It is a very dangerous job. Oftentimes their families do not know whether in fact they will return safely because of the dangers of just doing their job.

Little did I know how prophetic these words would be. Let me join the rest of the Nation expressing my profound sadness at the loss of officers Chestnut and Gibson, who selflessly laid down

their lives so that I and every other person who visits or works in this building could remain safe.

I offer my deepest condolences to their families, and I ask God to bless their children. Their daddy is not coming home anymore, but their daddy cared deeply about them. He cared for every man and woman in this building. They did their job proudly, and God bless them for that.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER).

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Michigan for yielding me the time.

As we look to the ceiling of this great historic Chamber in the direction of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson, we see inscribed on this great Chamber ceiling an eagle with the words E Pluribus Unum. From the many, one.

Today, I think it is from one to the many. From a detective and an officer, from their sacrifices, from their professionalism and expertise to the many families, the many Americans and the many freedoms that we enjoy in this great country.

On Friday, I, like many of my fellow colleagues, brought children to this Chamber, my 5-year-old and 4-year-old. My 4-year-old fell asleep in this Chamber in the front row.

It is because we feel, as Members of Congress, 435 of us, so secure with the professionalism of these officers and what we want our children to see up here with this great institution that we have this security. We thank the families of these officers.

From the people of this great country, 6 to 8 million people visit this historic Chamber and this great Capitol, they are thankful to these families and these two courageous officers.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, what price, what price can you put on freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of religion and the ability of legislators to get together to make laws and the people in these chambers to watch with sunshine, these officers, this Capitol Hill Police force, allows that to take place.

On behalf of our families, on behalf of our freedoms, on behalf of the American people, we thank the courage, the bravery, and the heroic acts of these two great men.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, we struggle in vain to find the right words to try and make sense of the senseless. In the final analysis, we realize that no words can compensate, no words can comfort, no words can change the reality of loss confronted by the families of John and J.J.

In the end, Mr. Speaker, we are left not with words but with examples. In the New Testament Book of James, the writer reminds us that words are one thing and actions are something else. In the midst of this tragedy, Mr.

Speaker, we saw a devotion to duty that transcends the horror and mayhem of that hour of uncertainty, because J.J. and John reflexively answered their call to duty.

In the end, that remains the truth and reality, that as professionals, befitting their brothers and sisters who wear the badges of honor in this House, they understood the true meaning of public service, which is not restricted to those who hold public office but in fact includes all of those willing to stand and put their lives on the line for an idea and a notion greater than themselves.

Mr. Speaker, our Founders, in the Declaration of Independence, the first time we see in print those words, the United States of America, said in closing, we pledge our lives, our fortunes, our sacred honor.

So, too, did John and J.J. Rest in peace, job well done.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish that I could say the words that would assuage the grief of the families of Officers Gibson and Chestnut, but I cannot.

I wish I had the words to properly express how they have protected this democratic institution, but I cannot. I can only say a word of gratitude. It was Cicero, the great Roman orator, who once said that gratitude is the greatest of all virtues. So that is what we are here about this evening, expressing in our own way the gratitude of our Nation, of our people and of each other.

My first experience with police officers on Capitol Hill was when we first came in December 1976, and the police officer I asked, and I was dressed in blue jeans and a ratty old overcoat. My family, my wife Suzy and I, my three boys were in the Capitol to look around. I asked directions of one of the officers, and he called me by name. Yet I was not a Member of Congress. I thought then they were a special group, and they are. Quiet competence, knowledgeable, friendly.

On top of that we have examples of two who were quietly competent, knowledgeable and friendly, but also heroes.

I say to this body, Mr. Speaker, as well as to all across the country, that every one of the Capitol Police that serves us today is quietly competent, friendly and knowledgeable, but each one, Mr. Speaker, is also a potential hero.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. FORBES).

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the first district of New York, I join with all of our colleagues and our Capitol Hill family and, indeed, all Americans, as we mourn the loss of two brave heroes, Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson.

To their loving wives and their precious children and, indeed, all of their family and friends, we extend our

heartfelt sympathies and prayers. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson brightened our days. They watched out for us. They made us feel secure and, just as we come here today to mourn them, so, too, do we celebrate the kind of men what they were. They, like so many of their colleagues on the Capitol Hill Police force, are a special breed of courageous, devoted and conscientious protectors.

May the Lord continue to shine upon them his infinite love and mighty graces.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the 35th congressional district and the people of the State of California, I, along with all of the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, join with the President and other Members of Congress and, of course, the citizens of this entire Nation in sending our heartfelt condolences to the families of slain Capitol Police Officer Jacob "J.J." Chestnut and Capitol Police Detective John M. Gibson.

We, too, are pained by the tragic death of two very fine officers who lost their lives while serving and protecting those of us who work and visit the Nation's Capitol each day.

Officer Chestnut was shot while guarding the east entrance of the Capitol. Detective Gibson was shot twice while protecting majority whip TOM DELAY's leadership office. They were the first officers in our history slain while protecting the Capitol of the United States.

These officers, these husbands, these fathers served their country unselfishly before they lost their lives last Friday. Both were 18 year veterans of the Capitol Police. Yes, each was a father and each was indeed a husband. Officer Chestnut was married with 5 children. He also was a grandfather. Detective Gibson was married with 3 children.

We may never be able to make sense of why Russell Eugene Weston, who had a history of mental illness, barged into the Capitol, barged in on Friday to shoot innocent people.

We do know this, however: We know that Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson are heroes. They made the ultimate sacrifice. They gave their lives so that others might live. For that, we are indeed eternally grateful.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the Members of the House, please remember to take time to acknowledge all our officers and, really, all of the workers who protect and maintain the Capitol and the office buildings. Say hello to them. Ask them how they are doing. Treat them with respect on a daily basis. After all, their lives are at risk every day to protect us and the citizens of this country who visit their Capitol.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN).

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Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority leader for yielding me the time this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I came over with prepared remarks to talk about the heroes that all of us have talked about this afternoon and will tonight and tomorrow. But after listening and thinking about these prepared remarks, Mr. Speaker, I have to go off topic to simply say that, in all the confusion on Friday, I went home, caught a flight back to Buffalo, New York. All of us went home. I talked to constituents, and I talked to my family, and I discussed with people back home in Buffalo how they were happy and glad that I was safe, that I made it home to be with my own family.

Mr. Speaker, it seems at times that we worry about all of our inconveniences and all of our own problems and all of our differences here at work each week, but not only did I return home to my family but I am back at it again today, here in the Nation's Capitol. Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson are not.

At times, our inconveniences and our problems and our differences seem to be bigger than they should be. We only have to look at these two fine gentlemen to understand how unimportant our inconveniences and our problems and our differences really are.

So what do we do and where do we go from here after services tomorrow? I might suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the Members of the House return to work and put aside those differences and those inconveniences and those problems and we get to the people's work in the People's House, in this building, to do what is right for Americans, and we do it because we know that there are officers just like J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson who protect us and put their lives on the line every day who want us to do it that way.

On behalf of my own family and the people of the 30th Congressional District in New York, I pledge to do that in memory of J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON).

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, it was written some years ago, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Certainly I rise today in behalf of the 10th Congressional District, State of Indiana, and for those who wished they were in this place tonight to pay special tribute to two brave police officers who gave their lives to protect the safety of visitors, the Capitol staffers and Members of Congress and to ensure that all Americans can freely walk the halls of Congress.

Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson are two of my heroes. I had the privilege of meeting both of the gentlemen when I would go in the second entrance over there and was always endeared by their sweet smiles, their professionalism and their attentiveness.

As we debate what could have happened and what did not happen, I do not believe that there is anything under God's sun that we could have done to have prevented that awesome tragedy of last Friday. Because certainly Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson especially did all that he could in terms of even giving up his own life for the sake of others.

I would like to convey my heartfelt sympathy to the families of those valiant officers and to assure them that they are in our thoughts and prayers, not just after tomorrow but eternally, especially while we come in and out of the House of Representatives.

I would like to add that I come from a district where the violence has eclipsed, we are surpassing the numbers of violence that we incurred last year in terms of homicides. I would trust that, rather than to overreact to this situation, because there is certainly nothing that we can do to erase that horrible tragedy that occurred at the Capitol on last Friday, but I think we, as Members of Congress, now must lean on the poet who wrote, "Blessed are the peacemakers," and do everything that we can in our power to ensure safe and peaceful schools and neighborhoods and parks and workplaces.

Let us come to grips with the violence in our Nation to make sure that this type of tragedy that claimed Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson is no longer a part of American life. We owe that to Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson to do nothing less. And while we honor these two young men, let us remember that we have much work to do in terms of assuring the health and the safety of Americans everywhere.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the 8th District of New Jersey join all Americans in pausing to think about their lives, cut short by a madman, J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson. They represented family, dedication, hope; and the Chestnut and Gibson families should know that we here will not forget. You can count on this Congress.

Second, this house of the people should not be turned into a barricaded camp in the name of providing more security to the Congress. I feel secure. And democracy is, also. We shall be vigilant.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, I had a group of students come here. They wanted to go, four or five of them, to a place, a remote place in this building where usually people do not go. So I took them down to the bowels of the Capitol. We stopped for a moment, and I said, "Do you know where we are? This is where part of the War of 1812 was fought. And at the time it was being fought here, they were trying to burn

down the White House down the street."

They could not believe that, because we take a lot of those things for granted, do we not? When they came out of the building, they turned and looked at it differently than they looked at it when they went into this building.

Mr. Speaker, from now on, I will bring those groups to where Mr. Chestnut and his friend and our honored person John Gibson fell. Democracy is secure because of them. Democracy is better because of them. Yet these things happened outside of a war. God bless them, God bless their families, God bless America.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS).

Mr. SANDERS. I thank the minority whip for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, when I was home over the weekend, several Vermonters asked me to make certain that I express on their behalf their sorrow at the tragic deaths of Capitol Police Officers John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut. I know that I speak for all the people of the State of Vermont as well as my wife Jane when I do just that.

Mr. Speaker, these two extraordinarily brave officers did the job that they were trained to do and that they pledged to do. When their moment of truth came on Friday, they did not shirk from their responsibilities, and they did what I think all of us hope that we have the courage and the strength to do when our moment of truth might come. They gave their lives protecting congressional staff, visitors and elected officials.

It is appropriate that we honor these men and their families because they not only protected and saved the lives of many individuals, but they helped assure that the People's House remains open to all Americans. If democracy means anything, it means that the people have the right to visit with their elected officials, to go to the meetings that are of importance to them, to make their opinions known. That is what democracy is about. It is terribly important that no deranged individual, no terrorist stops that process and closes the door. Our hearts go out to these brave officers. They are true American heroes.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. CUBIN).

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, today we gather here to show our respect and honor for the two men who died Friday heroically in the line of duty. I knew both of them. They were both very fine men, family men. Their sacrifice needs to remind all of us how very much we owe to all policemen and law enforcement officers across this Nation who similarly put their lives on the line every single day for the public safety and to protect the freedom that so often we take for granted.

It is very sad that it takes something like this for us to express our apprecia-

tion to those people who protect us and look out for us every day, as we cross the street and the officers stop the traffic. There are so many things that we just take for granted. From the bottom of my heart, I thank them both, and their families as well.

Last Friday, I was in my office until late. I instructed my staff to lock the doors, because we did not know how many shooters were there. We did not know how many shooters were out there. We did not know what was happening. I instructed them to lock the door and call their families and tell their families they were okay. When I called my mother, she said that certainly she was grateful that I called and that she could go to bed and her life would go on as usual but that the families of the people who were shot and the person who shot them would be forever changed. I express my sincere condolences to all of them and thank them for the sacrifice that they have made for us.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT).

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, when I was sheriff, I had a deputy gunned down by the name of Sonny Litch. I want to commend the Democrat and Republican leaders of the House the way they have handled this tragedy, because transition to normalcy will be very difficult. On behalf of all the people of the 17th Congressional District of Ohio, I, too, want to join my colleagues in saluting and paying tribute to John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut.

There are words to describe them. They are policemen, D.C. Capitol Police that, for many years, they were looked at as country club policemen, and it took this stark reality. Ladies and gentlemen, the Capitol Police are of the highest standards. John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut have just raised the bar for all policemen in America. They prevented any loss of life on their appointed duties except their own.

But I want to tell and remind the Congress today, because I was to offer an amendment to an appropriation bill and I was asked to not do it this year, that the D.C. Capitol Police is paid less than the Uniformed Division of the Secret Service who perform the same duties. That is unbelievable to me. The suburbs are robbing us of our good young guys and women that qualify through the FBI scrutiny for background checks. We must change that. The Uniformed Division of the Secret Service is paid more.

I salute John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut. They have raised the bar and the standards for all policemen in our country.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), our conference chairman.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the afternoon of Friday, July 24, seemed just like another busy Friday afternoon in our Nation's Capitol. The

House had just concluded business for the week, Members were headed home, and my staff and I had huddled in the Capitol for a routine meeting to wrap things up for the week. What happened next was anything but routine; sad, tragic, heartbreaking. I do not think there is any description that quite does it justice.

Capitol Police Officers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson gave their lives stopping a deranged gunman who tried to blast his way into the people's Capitol. Working only a few dozen steps down the hall from Majority Whip TOM DELAY'S office, my staff and I heard the shots. Like millions of others shaken by this tragic event, we feel we owe these two fallen heroes an almost unimaginable debt. Officers Chestnut and Gibson made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation in keeping the Capitol safe and accessible for about 22,000 people who come to our Capitol every day to have an opportunity for direct contact with their legislators. That kind of openness is unheard of in societies that place a lesser value on human freedom.

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It is an important feature of American democracy that Officers Chestnut and Gibson gave their lives in its defense.

Speaker NEWT GINGRICH spoke for all of us in recognizing their sacrifice and their grieving with the families when he said: "These two gentlemen are genuine heroes. They literally every day, knowingly and voluntarily, put their lives on the line. They understood that to be free, somebody had to be willing to take this risk."

The tragedy was an awful reminder that freedom inevitably comes with a price, a price that these two officers were willing to pay.

And as the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) said emotionally just minutes afterwards: Freedom is not free. There is always a cost, and today it cost the lives of two security officers sworn to protect the safety of the people's House.

Officers Chestnut and Gibson's mission was to keep the Capitol open and accessible to citizens while guarding against those who would bring violence to its sacred halls. Nobly and courageously they succeeded, and we must honor what they fought for by keeping the Capitol open and accessible and preserving the freedom they died valiantly to defend.

America will never forget the sacrifice that these two officers and other law enforcement personnel, what they do every day in protecting our Capitol and our society as a whole, and we pray that the grieving families of those two fallen heroes will find comfort in knowing that freedom will be their loved one's enduring legacy. They gave their lives to protect it for all of us, and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts, and may their souls rest in peace.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN).

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, with profound sadness and great pride, I remember Special Agent John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut. To the families of these two heroes, we are incredibly grateful and fortunate to have had your fathers and your husbands protecting the people's House.

While at home this weekend, constituents expressed to me time and time again the trauma of these events and their profound respect for those two men and all of the men and women protecting the people's House. I offer my prayers to these two families from thousands of families throughout Florida, and, Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by reading one of my favorite scriptures:

"Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me.

"In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may also be."

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in paying tribute to two individuals who have given to this country their last measure of true devotion: Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson. They reinforce for us the fact that America, my country 'tis of thee, is the land of the common woman and the common man. It is composed of people who struggle each and every day to make ends meet, put food on the table, provide for their loved ones.

We often hear of the great leaders, star entertainers, athletes, musicians and others, but in a real sense history is made by ordinary people whose names are often unknown or forgotten. Mr. Gibson and Mr. Chestnut are indeed unsung heroes. They are part of a group of men and women who put their lives on the line each and every day. They are the people who have made America.

And so, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Seventh District of Illinois, I humbly salute these two heroes and pray for their families as we pray for America and as we relook at the gun laws and mental health needs of our country.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the minority whip for yielding this time to me.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my family and on behalf of the people of the First Congressional District of New Jersey, I rise to offer my condolences and thanks to the families of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson. They have given us many gifts in their lives, a gift of courage, a gift of discipline, ultimately the gift of their very lives.

Let me also suggest that I believe they have given us a gift in death.

I have had the privilege of standing in this Chamber for eight years, and I have never once felt the feeling that I feel here this evening of a truly collective broken heart of those of us who stand on this floor and those who serve their country and us around these environs. Their deaths have served to remind us that we are not Republican and Democrat, or liberal and conservative, or northerner or southerner; we are men and women, people bonded by the human spirit. Today that spirit is bruised and broken, but as they have given to us in their lives, I believe they will give to us in their deaths and hereafter a spirit of unity and cooperation.

May God bless their families, and we thank them for their contribution.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

(Mr. Hunter asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my condolences to the families of the officers.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES).

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished minority leader for yielding this time to me.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 24, Capitol Hill witnessed a very tragic event. Two Capitol Hill Police officers were slain while serving in the line of duty. Capitol Hill Police Officer Jacob Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson were fatally wounded by a lone gunman who attempted to shoot his way into the Capitol Building. Hundreds of tourists and hundreds of aids were undoubtedly saved from harm as these two police officers performed their duties.

The loss of these two men was profound. Following the tragedy, many people used the term "hero" to describe Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson. Many others were stunned by the sudden twist of events and were at a loss for words. Instead, they paused for a quiet moment of remembrance in honor of these two members of the Capitol Hill Police Force. The brave men and women who serve on the Capitol Hill Police Force are charged with protecting Members of Congress, Capitol Hill employees and tourists from around the world who visit our Nation's Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, these brave men gave the ultimate sacrifice. We offer our condolences to their families.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT).

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, we all know why we are here and for whom the bells toll. When Jake Chestnut and John Gibson died, they died for all of us. And we live, we go on, we move freely about this Capitol because they did their duty, they did it without flinching, they did it at the price of their lives.

They died for us, but they really died for something more. They died to keep this Capitol a place the people can come to and leave feeling this is their Capitol, the seat of their government.

We pay a high price in dollars to keep this the most open Capitol in the world. On Friday we paid far more dearly. We lost the lives of two good men.

It was not my privilege to know Mr. Gibson. I did know Mr. Chestnut. I knew the first minute I saw him, indeed sitting outside our conference committee room and noticed his name tag, that he was from South Carolina. He was professional from head to toe. He had a polished bearing about him, polished by 20 years in the Air Force. But beneath that polished bearing was a warm-hearted man.

I know his family loved him because all of us who came in contact with him did. To their families we open our hearts. Officer Gibson died young, Officer Chestnut died before enjoying a well-earned retirement. But they raised the bar of duty, they left the country two shining examples of courage, and they helped make this Capitol the land of the free, the Capitol of the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. KENNELLY).

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, we gather to pay tribute tonight to the lives of the heroes who died on Friday, true heroes Officer J.J. Chestnut and Detective John Gibson.

Like many of my colleagues, on Friday I had a hearing, I had meetings, I went back and forth to the Capitol, but I did not think about my safety. I certainly did not think about the safety of the tourists because I know that the Capitol Police are here, brave men and women sworn to protect those who come to this building to visit and all of us who work in this building.

Tragically, I was right. Two of those individuals were on duty and were suddenly thrust into the most deadly of circumstances. That this building reopened on Saturday testifies to the awesome truth as they did their duty of protecting this building, they protected the liberty and freedom and democracy that it stands for.

We gather tonight to pay this tribute to these men, and we feel so strongly and so sadly about their deaths, but we stand here tonight, all of us gathered today, in sympathy to say that we will make sure that their memories are kept by keeping this building the way they wanted it, a place of peace, a place of hope, a place of democracy.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues from both sides of the aisle in paying tribute to these fallen heroes, Capital Police Officers Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson, and in extending my deepest condolences to their families.

As my colleague, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), mentioned a little while ago, several of us were upstairs briefing the media after the votes in the House on Friday when the shooting happened. Capitol Police officers immediately came up to the press gallery to secure the area and make sure that we were safe.

The death of these police officers hits me in a personal way because my father is a retired police officer. Every day that my father headed off to work, I knew that he was potentially putting himself in danger to keep our community safe. There was, of course, a sense of fear and concern for his safety that I felt, but I also felt a sense of pride. I knew he was doing an extremely important job, and I know that the men and women who serve here in this Capitol feel that same sense of pride and purpose.

For the families of Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson, I just hope that the sense of loss that they are experiencing will be alleviated somewhat by the tributes today, and, Mr. Speaker, I hope that their sadness will be mitigated by the private knowing that Officers Chestnut and Gibson gave their lives to protect the lives of others.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT).

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, this is a sad time. J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson will always be remembered by the families and friends and all of us that love them and respect them.

I grew up in a family where we had a lot of security around. My father was Governor of Tennessee in the 1950s and 1960s, and I have got a lot of appreciation for people that wear the uniform.

And to those men: You have helped us protect freedom in the world because there is no building on the face of the Earth that is more recognized than the U.S. Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, these two men put their life on the line for all of us. God bless Officer Chestnut and Officer Gibson.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. WEYGAND).

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I thank the minority whip for yielding this time to me.

It is times like this that we are reminded of the inadequacy of our language. How do we properly express our regret and sorrow to the wives of Officer J.J. Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson at the loss of their husbands? How do we share with their children the appreciation we feel for the valor displayed by their fathers? How do we share with other officers of the Capitol Police Force our thanks and admiration at the bravery displayed by these two fine young men and their fellow officers, giving their lives so freely so that others would be saved?

Thank you?
I am sorry?
Bravery?

Courageous?

Hero?

All words pale in the face of the loss of a husband, a father, a colleague, a friend.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring Special Agent John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut. These two brave men gave their lives to save other Members, staff and tourists from the most vicious attack in recent memory. Special Agent Gibson and Officer Chestnut are truly American heroes and it is fitting that we honor their memory today.

As the country unites to offer the families of these fallen heroes our condolences and prayers, I cannot begin to express my sorrow. The United States Capitol is a great example of freedom our country enjoys. No other country allows its citizens as much access to its government as the United States of America. I know everyone in this body appreciates and understands the importance of this freedom, and we thank Special Agent Gibson and Officer Chestnut for protecting us, our families, our friends, and our freedom from the evil and hatred the attacker carried within himself.

The Book of John, Chapter 15, verse 13 states: Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. I believe this message has special meaning today and forever. As a father of two children, I cannot begin to understand the pain and heartache being felt by the Gibson and Chestnut families. I hope and pray that these deaths were not in vain, and we all join together to pray for them and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in honoring the memories of these two brave men. Our nation owes them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. July 24, 1998 will be remembered as a day of heroes at the United States Capitol and we must never forget the ultimate sacrifice Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson made for their country.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS).

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, without excessive repetition, I would like to join my colleagues in the House to pay tribute to Officer J.J. Chestnut and Detective John Gibson who gave their lives dutifully protecting this hallowed institution.

It is important that we all come together across party lines and across all other differences to pay homage to these two heroes. And as we pay tribute to the dead, let us also honor the other police and protective forces and other staff members whose reverence for this institution is no less than and sometimes even greater than the reverence of the elected members.

In paying tribute to our defenders, we reaffirm the fact that this House of Representatives and the democratic process, this government belongs to all of the people. We reaffirm the fact that we are the guardians of a sacred process that takes place within the walls of this Capitol. This democratic process cannot survive without institutional support. The process and the institution have become inseparable.

This is the great democratic process that guarantees our freedom and guides our progress. It is the process that inspired the bravery and the courage on the beaches of Normandy. It is the process that applauded and rewarded the returning World War II heroes with more than merely marches and medals; Congress, this institution passed the GI Bill that offered unprecedented educational opportunities to every veteran.

This is the process and the institution that followed the leadership of the assassinated President Abraham Lincoln and passed the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments. This is the process and institution that, while mourning the death of John F. Kennedy, accepted the wise and forceful guidance of President Lyndon Johnson in the passage of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.

This is a sacred place and a sacred process that must at all times be protected and defended. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson instinctively understood the nature of our mission. The workings of this institution are more complex than the wiring and gadgets of any nuclear submarine. The impact of the results of what we conclude here has more explosive power and long range consequences than any rocket ever fired at NASA.

To keep this institution relevant and capable of meeting the challenges of our rapidly changing and demanding world we need the elevator operators, the cleaning staff, the receptionists, the analysts, the secretaries, directors, chiefs of staff, coordinators, counsels, information specialists, administrative assistants; and yes, we need the detectives and the police; all are vitally necessary. A complicated world demands an intricate governmental infrastructure.

The democratic process within this infrastructure must be protected because the twin monsters of insanity and violent savagery are always scratching at the door. In the last fifty years, the bullets of assassins have dramatically altered history in America: President John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr.; Robert Kennedy; and the almost murdered President Ronald Reagan.

Against the twin monsters of insanity and savagery we must do more than merely mourn the loss of our heroes. Most Americans can only grieve with the families of J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson. We, 535 Members of Congress, can do much more.

In paying tribute to these heroes, we Members of Congress should seek a solidarity across party lines and beyond the usual philosophical and ideological agendas. In defense of this great institution and to protect all vulnerable Americans, we must unite and act as one. Let this be a time of new reflections, new insight and new resolve to find ways to disarm the proliferating number of insane and savage assassins.

The second amendment was designed to make us safe from tyranny, to bolster our sense of security. No well regulated militia should allow the rampant and random distribution of firearms among the populace. In the name of our Capitol heroes, Officer J.J. Chestnut and Detective John Gibson; and for the sake of the families of all similar victims, let us resolve as powerful decision makers, as Members of Congress, to end the escalating terror of handguns in America.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield our last minute to the distinguished chair-

man of our caucus, the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO).

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with sadness in my heart to remember the two brave members of our Capitol Hill family who died in the line of duty last Friday. Officers Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson selflessly gave their lives protecting all of us and in the larger sense protecting our democracy. In the course of doing our daily business we may sometimes lose sight of the fact that the people who work on Capitol Hill share a special bond as Americans and as public servants.

□ 2000

It is what makes us a family. Like any family, we have our battles and our disagreements, but we also share in one another's joys and sorrows.

Over the course of long days that are filled with issues of national importance, we often get caught up in the weight of our obligations to the people that we serve. We may even become a little jaded. But a quick walk through this awesome Capitol building reminds us of why we are here, all of us, elected and unelected.

Every day thousands of tourists wander through these halls with us. They may watch some debate, they may peruse some of the historical displays placed throughout the buildings, or they may meet with their representatives. In short, they are literally taking part in this democratic experience.

Throughout that experience, it is the Capitol Hill Police who help us do our job while they help the American people participate in their democracy. We have the rare privilege to conduct the people's business peacefully and safely, thanks to the hard work and dedication of this Capitol Hill Police Force.

So as we lay these two courageous officers, these two loving family men to rest, we must remember that this Capitol Hill family is composed of a cross-section of hard working men and women brought together by a common interest in serving their country.

Thank you, Jacob Chestnut; thank you, John Gibson. God bless you both and your families.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), the deputy minority whip.

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, with heartfelt sympathy to the families of Officers Chestnut and Gibson, I express my gratitude to them and their families for serving our country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) has expired.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) has 2½ minutes remaining.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 311.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking all my colleagues for their contribution to this debate.

Mr. Speaker, in a few short minutes we will have a vote. I feel it is a great honor to end this debate, and I would like to close this debate by daring to be presumptuous. We have heard from so many Members of Congress about these two fine officers, these two genuine heroes, Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut. But dare I, Mr. Speaker, presume to speak on behalf of their associates and colleagues, fellow officers in the Capitol Hill Police Force?

We would, first of all, realize that I am so little equipped to do that, Mr. Speaker; but they do not have access to this floor to speak on behalf of their colleagues, their friends, their fellow officers. In truth of fact, they knew these two men better than we. Officer Chestnut was for so many a mentor; Detective Gibson, so many times a friend to so many of the other officers.

But if they could speak here today, and if they could speak about Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut, I think all of the men and women of the Capitol Police would say, Mr. and Mrs. America, know our fallen comrades; know them, for they are we, and we are them. We served together, and we serve you. Come to the People's House from all corners of our great land; come to America and visit this hall of freedom; come and see; and we will welcome you, we will aid you, we will assist you, we will give you courteous advice, we will give you a helping hand. If there is danger, we will shield you. If there is discomfort, we will aid you. We will help you in each and every way we can to know that in America, where democracy is constructed in this great hall of Congress, the people are welcome, for the people truly own this place where we work.

But then they would say, as you know Detective Gibson and as you know Officer Chestnut, know also that if you come here to disturb the peace, if you come here to trouble others, if you come here to trespass against freedoms or threaten the security of other people, you will be met with a well-trained and professional force, a force of disciplined officers of the law and a force of men and women who believe that Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson, by, first, their friendly service to so many people, and, then, finally, their dedicated protection of the rights of all, the safety of all, the security of all, Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut are exemplary of who we are. We love this place, we love this Nation, we love the people of this great land, and we love the men and women who serve

here, and we will stand in service and protection for all who are on these properties.

I think they would finally close with God bless you; God bless you, Detective Gibson; God bless you, Officer Chestnut. Well done.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great shock and sadness that I stand here to speak about the deaths of two fine officers who were so brutally shot down only a few feet from this Chamber on Friday afternoon. These heroes put their own lives on the line to save thousands of Capitol employees and visitors.

My heart goes out to their families and their friends. I know that it must not be much consolation to know that they are heroes no longer with us when in reality we all would much rather have them with us, and because of them no tourists or workers died—if they hadn't been there it would have been much worse. Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson showed us that the Capitol is safely guarded and that it is safe for folks to walk, enjoy and learn about the "People's House."

This unexpected and sudden tragedy apparently was the result of a disturbed individual. Unfortunately there is no way to make sure that Americans will not be exposed to such risk. However, I feel better walking the Halls of Congress on Capitol Hill knowing that officers of this dedication and ability are there to protect me, my constituents and my staff. The Capitol Hill Police Force should be commended for the bravery and efforts in the way that this very difficult situation was handled. Let us hope it will never have to be repeated.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 24, 1998, a Congress, a City, a Nation was shaken to its very foundation. The people's house, the U.S. Capitol Building, was violated when two of Capitol Hill's finest were killed in the line of duty: Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson. The ultimate and supreme sacrifices of these officers prevented the deaths of untold other constituents, citizens, and colleagues. Not only do we owe the memory of these men and their families our thanks, but we owe them our eternal gratitude. We must ensure that their memory will live on forever.

As a Member of the House Oversight committee, my colleagues and I have the duty to ensure that Congress remain accessible to all, and safe to ensure the democratic and timely debate of issues of the day. In our Committee rooms and offices, sometimes it is easy to forget the very difficult duty and burden that we place on the police officers of Capitol Hill everyday. Indeed, it is up to the officers of the Capitol Hill Police Department to carry out the orders and directions of the House Oversight Committee. These officers must allow our citizens to exercise their First Amendment right to freedom of speech, while ensuring that no ill will or harm befalls any individual person. The Capitol Hill Police Department has been doing a very difficult task extremely well for over 150 years. As a matter of fact, it is very easy to take for granted the safety and security of our Capitol, as many of my colleagues and I do everyday.

As a result of the recent horror and tragedy, it is important that we remember that the U.S. Capitol belongs to all who love democracy, freedom and justice. I am sure that the House Oversight Committee will begin in all due haste to review the security and safety of the

U.S. Capitol and its environs, keeping in mind the openness and freedom that separates the United States of America from all other nations in the world.

Let us keep the families of Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson in our prayers. While I did not know Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson personally, I do know of the fine work of many, many other of the other officers of the U.S. Capitol Police. The Bible says that no woman or man has a greater love than to lay down her or his life for their friends. The Bible also orders us to love our neighbor as ourselves. In the wake of this senseless loss, it is my desire and hope that all of us, Members of Congress and citizens alike, learn to care for our fellow human beings in the manner in which Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson loved not only their jobs, but their families, their fellow officers, and their country.

My prayers, as well as the prayers of the 15th Congressional District of Michigan, are with the families of these two fine men. You have made a difference in Congress: May they rest in peace.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I add my voice in tribute to the two fallen officers who lost their lives in performing their duty last Friday. This tragedy has brought us all together in grief as we remember the dedication of these two fine men, Officers Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson. They are the first Capitol Hill Police Officers to be killed in the line of duty and we owe it to them and their fellow officers to work to ensure that they are the last.

However, we must also ensure that the public will continue to have access to the nation's Capitol for its historic significance and as the seat of the legislative branch of government. By not keeping this great building open to the some 23,000 people who visit it daily, we will be surrendering a part of our freedom and our heritage. Let me remind my colleagues that Officers Chestnut and Gibson died defending our freedom and our heritage.

These deaths show us not only just how fragile life is, but also the invaluable service provided by those who put their life on the line as law enforcement officers. Let us never forget the sacrifice of these officers and those of everyone killed doing their duty. These two families and the entire nation have lost two outstanding individuals. I join in praying for their families and I extend to them by deepest sympathies.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police who lost their lives Friday, July 24, 1998 defending the United States Capitol, the tourists who visit it, and the Members and staff who serve there. It is thanks to their dedication to duty that an already tragic day did not result in additional loss of life. It is thanks to their heroism, and the heroism of their fellow United States Capitol Police Officers, that the People's House is and can remain open to the American people.

Today, flags fly at half staff over the United States Capitol to honor the fallen officers. Officer Chestnut, an 18 year veteran of the U.S. Capitol Police, had served in the U.S. Air Force. Detective Gibson was an 8 year veteran who was assigned to the dignitary protection division of the Capitol Police. Both offi-

cers leave behind a wife and children, as well as countless family and friends. At this very difficult time, it is my hope that they will find some solace in knowing that their loved ones died protecting America's hard-won freedom. Of this, they can be proud.

Friday's criminal act should not result in calls to close the Capitol and have Congress work away from the citizens it represents. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson gave their lives so the American people can visit their Capitol and see their Congress at work. The officers' sacrifice cannot have been made in vain.

My thoughts and prayers, along with those of every Member of this House, are with the fallen officers and their families at this difficult time. Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut served their country well. The service and heroism they displayed is exemplary, and we will always be thankful for the sacrifice they made.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in memorializing Capitol Police Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut. Officers Gibson and Chestnut made the supreme sacrifice to protect members of this body and our visitors. I extend my deepest condolence to their families and fellow officers.

As many other Members have said, the Capitol Police are a part of our family. We see them every day, we exchange pleasantries, we come to know them by name. Hundreds of thousands of visitors interact with them every year. However, many of us rarely stop to think that members of the Capitol Police force face the very same dangers as officers in our largest cities. Unfortunately, it takes a tragedy to bring that reality home.

The reality that the officers stationed throughout the complex can be confronted on any given day by an individual or group committed to harming Members and visitors. The reality that we live and work in a violent society—not in an isolated island. The reality that too many Americans believe that guns, rather than words, are the solution to their problems. The reality that not every one who visits the Capitol on a daily basis is here to experience how their government works.

Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson understood the risks, they did not shrink from them. They acted as they were trained. As a result, they prevented one committed individual from inflicting much more damage. They have been called 'genuine American heroes.' Like millions of other Americans, I share this sentiment. However, they are heroes not only for laying down their lives to protect others. They are heroes because they acted to preserve the openness that makes the House of Representatives different from any other legislative body on the face of the earth. I believe the best tribute to these heroes is to ensure that the House remains as accessible to the American people as possible.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson represent the very best qualities of America—commitment to public service, selflessness and courage. I am saddened that a tragedy, rather than the work they did every day, brings us to the floor tonight.

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and dedication of two of our finest public servants, officers Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson of the Capitol Police. These two men paid the ultimate sacrifice to see that the Capitol and its occupants could

conduct the business of democracy in the light of day, in plain view of the people.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to remember these men as more than names on a plaque. John Gibson was an 18-year veteran who lived in Woodbridge, Virginia. He is married to the niece of one of our colleagues, Rep. JOSEPH MOAKLEY. Compounding the tragedy of the death of John Gibson is the loved ones he leaves behind, his three children—a 17-year-old daughter and two boys aged 15 and 14.

A story from the newspaper tells us more about John Gibson, the man. He was regarded as a handyman around the neighborhood. John once ordered gravel to build a patio behind his house—only he ordered too much. There stood a big load of gravel dumped at his house. So, John ended up supplying the neighborhood with gravel. He did what any of us would do. He was just a regular guy.

Jacob Chestnut—or “JJ” as his colleagues called him—was a 20-year Air Force veteran. He served in Vietnam. His neighbors knew him as a gardener who generously shared his latest crop of cucumbers or Chinese cabbage. Jacob Chestnut, who is survived by five children from his current and previous marriages, planned to retire soon and play golf and travel with his wife.

As presidents and national heroes are honored, so are Officers Chestnut and Gibson. They acted with the highest courage. They performed their duty selflessly and prevented possible serious injury to scores of others. Officers Chestnut and Gibson are a testament to our national values and have earned the distinction of being national heroes.

They, like other everyday heroes—the men and women of the Capitol Police force—conduct themselves with distinction so that we might do the business of the American people in the open and share with the public the workings of this wonderful institution and symbol of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, these two men have been taken from our congressional family. We have suffered a grievous loss. May the Lord bless officers Chestnut and Gibson and their families and protect those who put their lives on the line every day so that we may live free.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues and the American people in paying tribute to two American heroes.

On Friday afternoon, Capitol Police Officers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson laid down their lives in defense of this building, in defense of the Members of this House, in defense of the thousands of tourists and staff members who work and visit here, and in defense of this country.

J.J. Chestnut was a dedicated Capitol Police officer who came to work every day and did his job well. While I didn't know him personally—I was certainly very familiar with his face. Part of the ritual of being a Member of Congress is walking into this building and casting a vote. How many times have we walked past these officers? How often before Friday have we really stopped to think about the sacrifices they make?

I personally knew John Gibson as the husband of Congressman MOAKLEY's niece. I had the privilege of working for Cong. MOAKLEY for 13 years, and during that time I got to know John Gibson as a family man, as a Massachusetts native, and as a life-long Red Sox fan.

You know, a lot of people have remarked about John Gibson's “Boston accent,” and how strange they thought it was. But I'll tell you, to me, listening to John talk served as a reminder of home.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Boston Red Sox beat the Toronto Blue Jays 6–3. I'd like to think that somewhere, John Gibson is looking at that box score and smiling.

I also want to say a few words of appreciation and admiration for the response of the entire Capitol Police force, who with professional efficiency and control, ensured that Members of Congress, congressional staff and tourists were safe and secure, either inside the Capitol or outside on the grounds as soon as the call went out that a gunman was loose in the Capitol Building.

I join the American people in mourning for these two brave men. I extend my sympathies to their families, friends and loved ones. And I express my respect for the Capitol Police force who work every day to ensure that the American people may safely visit and work within the nation's Capitol.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, on Friday afternoon, July 24, 1998, tragedy struck the Nation's Capitol. A lone gunman burst through an entrance of the Capitol building, fatally wounding two Capitol Police officers who saved the lives of so many through their own bravery.

Two of the finest members of our Capitol Hill family were shot and killed in the line of duty. Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson gave their lives defending Congress and its visitors from a gunman who savagely discharged his weapon on anyone who stepped in his way. Officer Chestnut was the first to be shot as he vigilantly guarded his post. After the gunman shot and wounded a fleeing tourist, he crashed into Majority Whip DELAY's office, shooting and mortally wounding Special Agent Gibson.

The actions of this man were reprehensible, but they were also the actions of a very disturbed person. Officers Gibson and Chestnut displayed a heroism and bravery which we should all be proud and thankful for as Americans and members of the Capitol Hill family.

Officers Gibson and Chestnut gave their lives in order to save the lives of so many others who were in harm's way. My thoughts and prayers go out to both families as well as to the United States Capitol Police, as I am sure the past few days have been very trying times. It is a comforting feeling to know that we are all being guarded by such a competent, dedicated, and brave group of officers.

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in commemorating our valiant Capitol Police Officers who gave their lives in the line of duty. Officer J.J. Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson will have our undying gratitude and remembrance for making the greatest sacrifice in serving their country. Our prayers and best wishes go out to their family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, as a former New York City police officer, my sadness and pain at this senseless loss is difficult to put into words. Once you have worn the uniform, you become part of an extended family for the rest of your life. And, while you know firsthand the senseless violence that occurs all too often in our country today, you still feel very personally each and every loss of a member of that “thin blue line” that serves to protect every one of us.

Mr. Speaker, these slain officers were heroes in the truest sense of the word. Not because of unusual feats, but because they died simply as a result of doing the job we ask them to do. We all are indebted to Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson for their sacrifice. We offer our sincerest condolences to their families. And, we all owe the members of the Capitol Police Force our respect and admiration for the work they do, each and every day.

In closing, I believe it was President Theodore Roosevelt, who wrote, “Death is always and under all circumstances a tragedy, for if it is not, then it means that life itself has become one.”

Mr. Speaker, let us here today swear that the tragedy our extended congressional family experienced last Friday shall always remind us of the value of life; of the valiant work of our Capitol Police Force; and of the need to be vigilant against the pointless violence that, sadly, pervades our society.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep and sincere condolences to the families of Officer Jacob Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson.

Those of us who are privileged to work on Capitol Hill feel as if we are part of a very large and extended family. Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson were vital parts of that family.

If the Capitol Police did not perform their jobs so professionally, they would be better known. Unfortunately, in today's society, we seem to focus on the negative rather than on the positive. But the Capitol Police do an excellent job and so the American people are not familiar with these dedicated men and women who patrol the United States Capitol grounds day and night.

Our nation's Capitol, the most recognizable symbol of freedom and democracy in the world, is also one of the most accessible government buildings in the world. Visitors from across our nation and the globe marvel at the ease with which they can sit in the gallery and watch the inner workings of Congress. They walk in awe throughout this grand and historic building. Yet, it is the dedication and professionalism of the Capitol Police which makes this access to the Capitol possible.

A few months ago, there was a fire in the Longworth Building. The fire alarm didn't go off on every floor, so Capitol Police officers ran up and down the stairs going into each office to remove people from harm's way. A few officers suffered smoke inhalation as they risked themselves to do their duty.

Every summer we read about tourists overcome by the heat, collapsing on the Capitol grounds, only to receive swift and needed care from Capitol police.

Every day we see the Capitol Police direct traffic to ease the morning and evening commute. We see them giving tourists directions and helping lost children find their parents.

They patrol our corridors and insure order and safety in our nation's most important public building.

When I think about the choice which Officers Chestnut and Gibson made to serve the public as police officers, I am reminded of what Thucydides once said, “the bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding, go out and meet it.”

As I offer my sympathy to the families of these two fallen heroes, I am also reminded of

what the Bible says, "No greater love has a man, than he lay down his life for another."

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, this is a difficult and solemn time in the House of Representatives. It is a day in which our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the two heroic members of the Capitol Police force who lost their lives last Friday, Officers Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson. They were part of our family here in the House and all of us today are experiencing the emotions of a death in the family. These were well-liked and well-regarded men whose jobs it was to protect the institution of the House and the people who serve in it. And in protecting us, they sacrificed their lives to save the lives of many others working and visiting the Capitol building. Despite the many words expressed in the House and Senate today, there can be no tribute grand enough to express our true appreciation for the selfless actions of John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut. To their families, we owe a great debt of gratitude and we, as an institution, will never forget their placing their sense of duty above personal safety.

It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Members of this body will focus on the important messages that flow from this tragic incident. First, I believe it is important that we recognize how capable and well-trained the members of the Capitol Police Force are. We see them everyday in many of their diverse roles, but when called upon to respond quickly to life-threatening situations, the force reacted swiftly and superbly, preventing an even more tragic result. As we seek to learn the lessons of this incident, it is abundantly clear that the people in charge of the mission of protecting this Congress are indeed quite capable and well-trained.

There may be security enhancements that can be accomplished to make this important public building even safer for the millions of visitors who come here each year. Certainly we must consider all the suggestions that flow from the thorough analysis of the shooting incident last week, including new physical protection measures and procedures that may guard against new and different threats here at the Capitol. Let me echo the sentiments of many of my colleagues here today, however, in expressing my personal hope that whatever security improvements may be implemented, they should preserve—to the greatest extent possible—this building's character as the "People's House," one which Americans from across the land can enter to view their representative government in action. Though we may be able to make the United States Capitol Building safer, I believe we should be careful to understand the actual and symbolic needs for access.

There is perhaps another message here, Mr. Speaker, relevant to this individual who crashed through the security station at the East Front of the Capitol last Friday. While all of the facts and motivations may not be clear to us at this early time, the interviews of his family convincingly demonstrate that Russell Eugene Weston was unstable, with a long history of mental illness. I believe that this incident calls into question the way in which potentially dangerous mentally-unstable individuals are ignored until they cause harm to themselves or to others, and certainly this must cause some re-evaluation. If we are too quick to release mentally-ill individuals like this from institutions, we must at the same time

recognize that the result will be additional challenges for law enforcement—though hopefully never with such a tragic result as occurred last Friday.

So, Mr. Speaker, let me join all of my colleagues in bowing our heads in solemn memory of Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson today, and to remark that any honor we can bestow upon them will pale in relation to the sacrifice they have made for us.

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in mourning the deaths of Capitol Police officers John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut, and in recognizing the dangers and challenges that members of the Capitol Police force face every day.

The Capitol complex is a large, busy place in the middle of a busy metropolitan area. As the seat of democratic self-government in this country—and as a symbol of democracy around the world—the Capitol is an obvious target for terrorists, as well as distinguished or mentally unbalanced individuals. In fact, as others have observed in recent days, the Capitol building has been the target of violent acts several times before in this century.

Despite the obvious concern about security, Congress has consistently decided—quite correctly in my opinion—that a high priority should be placed on keeping the Capitol complex as open to visitors and observers as possible. Congress and the Capitol Police have to constantly weigh security concerns against the need for openness. The outcome is inevitably a delicate balance, but Congress has wisely decided to preserve the public's access to the Capitol.

The Capitol Police force has the difficult mission of maintaining security in the Capitol complex while allowing thousands of visitors into its buildings each day. The Capitol Police go on duty each day never knowing when they may be attacked or drawn into some deadly confrontation. Despite this risk and uncertainty, they provide courteous service to the thousands of people who visit the Capitol each day while protecting the Capitol, its occupants, and visitors.

This Nation has been fortunate in the relatively small number of violent attacks that have been made on the President, Congress, and our federal employees. But every so often, as in the bombing of the Murrah Office Building in Oklahoma City or the terrible events that took place here in the Capitol on Friday, a violent attack does take place.

A natural human response is to say how could this happen—why couldn't something have been done to prevent it? Sadly, such tragic events are inevitable in a free society. We can work to make such events more infrequent, but we can not eliminate them. As this sad event reminds us, the benefits of a free society come only at a high price. These two fine Capitol Police officers, who died in the line of duty, gave their lives to preserve that freedom. They also gave their lives to protect the lives of the hundreds of other people who were in the Capitol Building at the time the gunman opened fire. Their sacrifice will not go unnoticed.

On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I extend my heartfelt sympathy and deepest condolences to the families of these two American heroes. And I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to the men and women of the Capitol Police force, who—like Officers John Gibson and

Jacob Chestnut—carry out their duties day in and day out with courage, dedication, and skill.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a tremendous sense of loss and sadness that I rise today to express my sincere condolences to the families and friends of Detective John Gibson and Capitol Police Officer Jacob Chestnut, and to their colleagues in the Capitol Police.

I'd also like to offer my sincerest gratitude to all of our Capitol Hill security personnel, who each and every day risk their lives for us and whom we oftentimes take for granted. Thank you for your service, your commitment, and your valor.

Detective Gibson was truly an officer's officer: his work exemplified the truest meaning of service. He is remembered by colleagues, friends, and neighbors alike as someone who would do whatever he could to help, someone who made people feel safe.

Officer Chestnut was a stalwart of service and professionalism. He always exhibited genuine kindness and gentleness to all of us who were privileged to know him. My family and I remember his assistance during my swearing-in ceremony, his incredible kindness, his guidance, his tremendous warmth.

These two heroes gave their lives in the line of duty protecting their fellow citizens. They leave behind families, friends, co-workers, communities, and Americans who will never forget their commitment and their sacrifice. Their passing leaves a void that will never be filled. We join with the families to remember special times and, in doing so, Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut will have a permanent place in our hearts. May they rest in peace.

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 311 to honor the two Capitol Security officers, Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson, who gave their lives last Friday in service to our nation. I offer my deepest sympathy to their families.

I also honor all of the other law enforcement personnel throughout the nation who put their lives on the line each day for the safety of our nation's citizens.

The Capitol Police responded to this situation swiftly and effectively. They told the staffers and tourists what to do during the melee and comforted them afterwards. They shielded people and saved lives. I would like to extend a thank you to all of these officers.

I would like to share an editorial printed in the Kansas City Star on Monday, July 27, 1998. This editorial honors Officers Chestnut and Gibson, as well as the other dedicated security personnel across the country who are committed to protecting all of us.

The shooting deaths of two police officers in the U.S. Capitol are a tragic reminder that thousands of law enforcement and security personnel put their lives on the line every day so that the rest of society can go on about its business.

All too often their willingness to put themselves at risk is taken for granted. But as events inside the Capitol demonstrated last week, these brave men and women may be called upon at a moment's notice to protect hundreds of innocent people from harm.

One day something goes wrong—an alarm goes off, a suspicious figure rushes by, shots ring out in a hallway—and suddenly their years of training and experience, their sheer speed in determining what must be done and

their courage in doing it, become absolutely critical.

Capitol Police Officers Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson, who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty on Friday, will be remembered by thousands of friends and colleagues in Washington and by millions of people across the country for their heroism.

Chestnut was shot while attempting to protect an entrance to the Capitol. Hearing shots, Gibson ordered the people around him to get down to protect themselves. He then confronted the gunman and was fatally wounded. But the dying officer fired on the gunman, saving government officials and tourists from harm.

It appears that the gunman was someone suffering from a mental illness that included bizarre delusions—someone who, fearing trouble with the government, traveled across the country to find that trouble.

But in the midst of Friday's crisis, Officers Chestnut and Gibson did not know who he was. These Capitol Police veterans simply knew that one of the central institutions of the U.S. government was under attack—and they found themselves on the front line of its defense. They did their duty without hesitation, and for that the entire nation honors them.

As the work week begins, many Americans will feel an extra measure of respect and appreciation for the many other police officers and security personnel who stand guard in government buildings and private offices around the country.

As the result of this tragedy, the already elaborate security system on Capitol Hill will be reviewed. Perhaps some changes will be made.

But as President Clinton and other officials have indicated, it would be a mistake to reject the commitment that has been made to keep the Capitol so accessible to the public.

Many other public places, after all, have been targeted by sick individuals and terrorists. Reasonable steps must be taken to discourage such violence. But we should not allow fear to dominate our lives, either at home or in our nation's capital city.

Given the visibility of the Capitol as a symbol of the government, and the thousands of people who move through it on a daily basis, the overall security record there appears solid; this was reported to be the first shooting in the building in decades.

Brave, dedicated people like Officers Chestnut and Gibson have been at the heart of that system. They will always play the critical role in protecting American institutions from confused individuals and those who wish our nation harm.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in paying tribute to two individuals who have given to this country their last measure of devotion, Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson. They reinforce for us the fact that America, "My country 'Tis of Thee," is the land of the common woman and the common man. It is composed of people who struggle each and every day to make ends meet, put food on the table and provide for their loved ones. We often hear of the great leaders, star entertainers, athletes, musicians and others. But in a real sense history is made by ordinary people whose names are often forgotten or unknown.

Mr. Gibson and Mr. Chestnut are indeed unsung heroes. They are part of a group of men

and women who put their lives on the line each and every day. They are the people who have made America, and so, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Seventh District of Illinois, I humbly salute these two heroes and pray for their families as we pray for America. And as we re-look at the gun laws and mental health needs of our country.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Officer J.J. Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson who were tragically slain in the line of duty this past Friday. Words do little to reveal the sense of gratitude we feel for their heroic actions or the sense of loss accompanied with their passing. Few of us could ever hope to equal the level of courage displayed by these individuals. My thoughts and prayers go out to their families and friends in this time of great sorrow.

While we mourn the loss of these two fine officers, we must also pay homage to all members of the Capitol Police Force. These brave men and women perform their duties with smiles and kind words, always standing at the ready to put themselves in harm's way if danger calls. Unfortunately on Friday, danger did call. Without regard for personal safety, they responded to the situation shielding Members, staff and visitors from harm, losing two of their own in the process. I thank them for their selflessness, their sense of duty and their courage. I extend to them my great sympathy on the loss of their comrades and my hope that such condolences are never again required.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, last Friday's tragedy continues to haunt our Capitol Hill community and our Nation. For those of us who work every day under the protection provided by the Capitol Police, it is particularly disturbing and saddening. My condolences and prayers go out to the family members and friends of Officers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson. Without Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson, more lives would have been lost on Friday. They are heroes in every sense of the word and deserve our deepest gratitude for their ultimate sacrifice.

One can only wish that the heroism and bravery of the Capitol Police force could have been brought to our Nation's attention under less tragic circumstances. The Capitol Police officers are our friends and colleagues. The protection of freedom is a goal we share with them. They work to ensure that Members of Congress can do their jobs without fear of intimidation or harm. On a more personal note, I have the highest appreciation for the Capitol Police for the assistance they have provided to me and my staff with great skill, courtesy, and professionalism.

Few of us are asked to risk our lives in the performance of our daily job duties. All of our Nation's law enforcement officers face that risk of death every day. Each day, they leave their homes and families to go to work, knowing that they might not return home. They accept the risk of death as the price of our freedom and our ability to live in a peaceful society. Because of their courageous selflessness, they do all of this without hesitation or complaint.

For elected Members, our support staff, and the Capitol Police officers, Capitol Hill is our workplace and, in many cases, at least our part-time neighborhood. This tragedy hits close to home for all of us. We all have walked countless times in the area where the

shootings occurred. We have taken our families, friends, and constituents on tours that pass through that part of the Capitol, as have our staff members and interns. One of my staff members, Melissa Palaréa, was taking a group of constituents through that area as the shooting broke out. We feel fortunate that neither Melissa, nor the people she was escorting, were injured. We feel a heightened awareness of how quickly and unpredictably lives can be lost.

The Capitol is "the people's house." There is no more recognizable symbol of democracy than the dome and the flags flying in the wind over each wing—a signal that the House and the Senate are in session as we seek to represent our diverse society.

One of the hallmarks of our democracy is the right of all Americans to come to Washington, meet with their Representatives and Senators, and watch the proceedings of Congress in person. That spirit of open government was violated on Friday. As we mourn the loss of Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson and help their families in every possible way, we must also continue the openness of the symbols of democracy they died to protect.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, this is a somber and solemn day for Congress and our Nation. Our Capitol Hill family has suffered great loss with the deaths of Officers Jacob "J.J." Chestnut and John Gibson. The entire country was both shaken by violence at our Capitol and inspired by the ultimate heroism of these two men.

Mr. Speaker, how can we adequately thank our heroes? How do we comfort their wives and children who suffered the ultimate loss?

I have no answers to those questions, Mr. Speaker. I only know that we owe two law enforcement heroes more than words can express. I hope everyone listening will pray tonight for the families and friends of these two brave fallen officers.

As Co-Chair of the House Law Enforcement Caucus, I know that senseless tragedies are not new. Since our nation's founding, nearly 15,000 police officers have been killed in the line of duty. Their names are etched in the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, just blocks from here. Sadly, we now know two new names that will be added to the wall next year.

In this Capitol, we are protected by nearly 1,300 sworn officers and security aides. Their presence is so steady and reassuring that at times people have forgotten to notice. And the Capitol Police are joined by hundreds of thousands of law enforcement officers across America, who get up each morning and put on their badge, committing to protect people whose names they may never know. They have taken an oath to die for us. They are all American heroes. I am humbled to call them both my protectors and my friends.

If the events of last week hold any lesson, it is this: we must never take these courageous men and women for granted. They deserve our thanks, every opportunity we get.

J.J. and John will be remembered for the way they died, and also for the way they lived. They make us want to be better people. The greatest tribute we can offer these men is to have the same single-minded focus on our jobs in this great building, the People's House.

Remembering how Officers Gibson and Chestnut worked together to protect the People's House, I hope we will work together in a

bipartisan way to make our country a safer place for all.

I hope, too, that the legacy of Officers Chestnut and Gibson will be a Capitol that is open and accessible to the people to which it belongs. That is what they would have wanted. That is why they made the ultimate sacrifice.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Officers Chestnut and Gibson. You will always be remembered in these halls, and especially in our hearts. You are true American heroes, and we will miss you.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mourn the loss of two members of our American and our Capitol families—Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson.

Their names are quickly becoming synonymous with the word “hero,” and rightly so. These two men, and the entire Capitol Police force, daily summon the courage to stand in defense of lawmakers, staffers, tourists—every one of us—along with this bastion of American Democracy we call the United States Capitol.

Friday that dedication was put to the test. Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson did not waiver. They laid down their lives in defense of this Capitol and all it represents in the hearts of every American.

Jacob and John, I only wish that you were here with us today, to hear how grateful our nation is to you both for protecting our democracy. We are grateful for your dedicated public service to our country, your valor, and your courage.

As Rollo May has said, “courage is not a virtue or value among other personal values. It is the foundation that underlies and gives reality to all other virtues and personal values.” Your courage on Friday and throughout your careers is a symbol for all law enforcement officials, public officials, and every citizen to follow.

Mrs. Chestnut—Mrs. Gibson—my prayer and condolences go out to you and your families. And my prayers and gratitude go out to the entire Capitol Hill police force during this difficult time of grieving. God bless you and God bless every one of us.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, my father always taught me that there was no higher calling than to do your duty. In the words of Robert E. Lee, “Duty, there is the sublimest word in our language. Do your duty in all things . . . You cannot do more, you should never wish to do less.”

A few great Americans have had the honor of lying in state in the Capitol Rotunda. They have ranged from President Abraham Lincoln to the unknown soldiers of the wars of this century. But few Americans have done their duty to their country better than the two officers we are honoring here.

These two Americans represent the best in our nation's values. They were both devoted family men, leaders in their churches and neighborhoods, and always ready with a kind word and a smile. I cannot regret more the sacrifice that gained them fame, but we cannot do better as examples to hold before our children.

I am honored that Officer Chestnut comes from Myrtle Beach, SC. He grew up among the palmetto trees and beaches, and some of his family remains there to this day. Officer Chestnut will never get to use the new golf clubs that his brother gave him for his retirement next month. However, his sacrifice, and

that of Special Agent Gibson, will remain a legacy that his family can turn to for comfort in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert in the RECORD a copy of the editorial from this morning's Myrtle Beach Sun-News:

JACOB J. CHESTNUT, TRUE AMERICAN HERO

The death of a front-line hero in the cause of freedom and democracy crashes around us all the harder because it is supposed to be peacetime. The firing of bullets in the Capitol on Friday, apparently triggered by a shooter's unhinged response to a directive to get back in a metal detector queue, makes death more unexpected than on a war's battlefield, but no less tragic.

Such is it with Capitol Police Officer Jacob J. “J.J.” Chestnut, who lived in Maryland with his family but who, according to his family, called Myrtle Beach home. Chestnut died in the line of duty, attempting to create at his Capitol post what precious little safety there can be in a democracy that prides itself on openness.

If this were a police state—God forbid!—Officer Chestnut might have had a chance to survive because there would not have been an entrance for the public to what is called “the people's house.” But after 20 years in the Air Force and 18 in the Capitol Police, nearing a second retirement, Chestnut would not have stood for anything less than freedom of movement, within few guidelines.

This is a man who must have sincerely understood from its benefits what freedom is all about. He must have relished the ability to enjoy what the government has provided through its institutions and its lasting policies. This is a man who enjoyed his family, close to him in Maryland and Myrtle Beach, where he doted on kinship.

In praising Chestnut and Capitol Police Special Agent John Gibson, who also died in the shooter's fusillade, President Clinton argued, “I ask you to think about what our Capitol means . . . We must keep it a place where people can freely and proudly walk the halls of their government. And we must never, ever take for granted the values for which it stands or the price of preserving them.”

Added Speaker Newt Gingrich, “No terrorist, no deranged person, no act of violence will block us from preserving our freedom and from keeping this building open.”

Those are among the values for which Officer Chestnut died. He knew they were worth it. We sympathize with his family, but glory in his heroism. We here in Myrtle Beach must find a way to honor for all time the officer, this man.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, while carrying out their duties, more than 150 police officers are killed every year—a rate of one death every 52 hours. And, every year, more than 65,000 police officers are assaulted and 23,000 injured.

On Friday, those statistics were brought close to home when, tragically, Officers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson were killed in the line of duty. These brave men died protecting the lives of the Members of Congress, staff and those who were visiting the Capitol. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of both officers, and with their friends and colleagues in the U.S. Capitol Police.

The Capitol is known around the world as the symbol of democracy. It has been called the “People's House”—a place where citizens can freely come to meet with their elected officials and watch democracy at work. Officers Chestnut and Gibson died protecting our right to have a free and open democratic form of government. All Americans, not just those who work in the Capitol, have suffered a loss.

In the area I represent, we are sadly familiar with the sacrifices that law enforcement officers make far too often. Last December, we lost two distinguished members of Cincinnati's police department—Officer Daniel Pope and Specialist Ronald Jeter—in a senseless act of violence. Just a month later, Officer Mike Partin of the Covington (KY) police department was killed while pursuing a suspect who was attempting to escape into Cincinnati.

Shortly after their deaths, I visited the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington to lay a wreath in their memory. The Memorial, which was dedicated in 1991, contains the names of more than 14,000 American police officers who have died in the line of duty since the first recorded police death in 1794.

There is a quote inscribed on the memorial that is a fitting tribute to Officers Gibson and Chestnut—and all law enforcement professionals who have given their lives in service to the public. It reads, “It is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is now they lived.”

These fallen U.S. Capitol Police officers—and their colleagues nationwide—deserve our respect and support for putting their lives on the line every day to protect the safety of all of us.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in paying deepest respect and highest tribute to Officers Jacob “J.J.” Chestnut and John Gibson, who gave their lives last Friday afternoon in the tragic shootings just a few short steps from the House chamber.

Both of these fine officers—like the other men and women who serve as members of the Capitol Police force—are committed to preserving and protecting the security of those of us who serve as Members of Congress, our staff, and the public who have, and should continue to have, access to the U.S. Capitol building.

Mr. Speaker, last Saturday morning following the tragic death of these two brave men, President Clinton paid outstanding tribute to these fine police officers and made a powerful restatement of the importance of our Capitol building as a symbol of our nation's democratic government. As the President said, this “majestic marble building is the symbol of our democracy and the embodiment of our nation. We must keep it a place where people can freely and proudly walk the halls of their government. And we must never, ever take for granted the values for which it stands or the price of preserving them.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the full text of President Clinton's remarks be placed in the RECORD.

[From the White House Briefing Room, July 25, 1998]

The President: Good morning. The shooting at the United States Capitol yesterday was a moment of savagery at the front door of American civilization. Federal law enforcement agencies and the United States Attorneys Office are working closely with the D.C. police and the Capitol police to ensure that justice is pursued.

Meanwhile, I would ask all Americans to reflect for a moment on the human elements of yesterday's tragedy. The scripture says, Greater love hath no man than this: that he lay down his life for his friends. Officer Jacob “J.J.” Chestnut and Detective John Gibson laid down their lives for their friends, their co-workers, and their fellow citizens—those whom they were sworn to protect. In

so doing, they saved many others from exposure to lethal violence.

Every day, a special breed of men and women pin on their badges, put on their uniforms, kiss their families good-bye, knowing full well they may be called on to lay down their lives. This year alone, 79 other law enforcement officers have made the ultimate sacrifice. Every American should be grateful to them for the freedom and the security they guard with their lives, and every American should stand up for them and stand against violence.

Officer Chestnut was a Vietnam veteran, a member of the Capitol Police for 18 years, just months away from retirement. Detective Gibson was a deeply religious man, beloved by his co-workers, and, being from Massachusetts, devoted to the Red Sox and the Bruins. Both leave behind loving wives and children, the affection of neighbors, friends, and co-workers, and the deep gratitude of those who are alive today because of their bravery.

In this one heartless act, there were many acts of heroism, by strangers who shielded children with their bodies, by officers who fanned across the Capitol, by Dr. Bill Frist, a renowned heart surgeon before his election to the Senate from Tennessee, who had just put down his gavel when he rushed to tend the injured. To all these and others who stood for our common humanity, we extend the thanks of our nation.

To the families of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson, nothing we say can bring them back. But all Americans pray that the power of a loving God and the comfort of family and friends will, with time, ease your sorrow and swell your pride for loved ones and the sacrifice they made for their fellow citizens. To Angela Dickerson, the young woman who was injured in the shooting, we extend our prayers and hope for your speedy recovery.

To every American who has been shaken by this violent act, to the millions of parents who have taken your children through those very same doors, I ask you to think about what our Capitol means. All around the world, that majestic marble building is the symbol of our democracy and the embodiment of our nation. We must keep it a place where people can freely and proudly walk the halls of their government. And we must never, ever take for granted the values for which it stands or the price of preserving them.

Thank you very much.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, Capitol Police Officers John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut were tragically killed in the line of duty protecting Members of Congress, staff and tourists. Officers Gibson and Chestnut are heroes in every sense of the word. These brave, selfless men gave their lives protecting the very foundation of our democracy—the People's House.

Officers Chestnut and Gibson's heroism and sacrifice will not be forgotten by a grateful Nation. We are forever in their debt as individuals, as Members of Congress, and as an institution. It is a debt that can never be repaid but one that is now enshrined in the very fabric of our democracy and in the hallowed halls of Congress.

Since the shocking and bloody events of Friday, my thoughts and prayers have been with the families of John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut, and with Angela Dickerson, the young woman who was wounded during the shooting. While the loss of Officer Gibson and Officer Chestnut is deeply felt by their friends and coworkers in Congress, it is their wives

and children who must now bear that terrible burden—the loss of a husband and a father. It is a sacrifice that no child should be asked to make. It is a sacrifice that no spouse should have to make.

So as we mourn the deaths of Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut, and pay tribute to their memory, let us pray for the well-being of their families. Let us remember the enormous sacrifice their wives and children have made in the name of freedom and democracy. And let us reflect upon the valor of the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police Force who make it possible for us to conduct the people's business free from harm's way.

God Bless Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of two true American heroes. Capitol Hill Police Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Special Agent John M. Gibson sacrificed themselves in the line of duty, putting their country and their commitment to democracy over their very lives. These men trained for the possibility of confronting violence, and when it came time, both acted professionally, responsibly, and heroically. We can only offer our most heartfelt condolences and prayers to the families of these inspiring men.

Officer Chestnut was an 18-year veteran of the Capitol Hill police force, having spent twenty years as part of the U.S. Air Force before that. Officer Chestnut was a highly-trained professional, who spent the overwhelming majority of his life protecting others. Special Agent Gibson was similarly selfless, working long hours at the Capitol as part of the Dignitary Protection Detail, constantly protecting others by putting himself in harm's way.

Those of us who work on Capitol Hill are used to seeing armed officers on a regular basis. We smile and chat with the friendly Capitol Hill police, and appreciate their warmth as people, and the sense of community they lend to our sometimes insular environment. They answer questions and direct tourists, just as Officer Chestnut was doing during the exact moment his killer confronted him. We rarely contemplate the seriousness of their task.

However, protection is their ultimate goal. Not only were officers Chestnut and Gibson here to protect Members of Congress, visiting dignitaries, and the millions of tourists who visit the Capitol, they were here to protect our very system of government. The Capitol is one of the most open government buildings in the world, a fact that is directly attributable to the commitment of the Capitol Hill police. For instead of forcing us to make our Nation's capitol impregnable, closing the doors and letting only those with government business enter, the Capitol Police stand in the breach, using themselves as barriers, while allowing the "People's House" to truly belong to the people.

Neighbors and family of Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson describe them as generous, giving, and kind. But they were also hard-working, authoritative, and took their jobs very seriously. Because even though their task was comprised partly of peopling our Capitol community with friendly faces and helping hands, they were also here to provide us with the very serious service of protection from violence. And, just as they excelled at working with the public, Officer Chestnut and Special

Agent Gibson both proved that they excelled at the task of protecting us, our staffs, and the public from mortal danger. Quite simply, we owe them our lives. And we owe them our lives not only for their actions last Friday, but for their habitual actions—smiling, chatting, continuing the routine of security, all the while putting their lives at risk, every single day.

Mr. Speaker, these men are honored as heroes because they were called upon to make the supreme sacrifice, but they are also heroes because they were constantly prepared to make that sacrifice—for their families, for us, and for the country they believed in. Our words can not bring them back, but we can honor the men, and the values for which they risked, and sacrificed, their lives.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the two officers who lost lives saving others. The extraordinary acts of heroism demonstrated by Detective Gibson and Private First Class Chestnut of the Capitol Police are actions in which every American should be grateful for.

Friday's tragic incident took the lives of two dedicated men who proved through their actions that they exemplified the true meaning of duty, honor, and love of their country. Their actions were not only full of courage but they were able to put an end to the violence with true valor.

Tragic events are not longer something we hear about; they have now penetrated the halls of the people's building right in our very own back yard. The shots taken in the Capitol on Friday were not heard just inside the Capitol, they were heard around the world as a warning to all that violence can happen at any moment and anywhere.

Friday's horrifying violent act took the lives of two brave men who died protecting what they believed in. We will never again take the presence of the Capitol police for granted because knowing that they are there makes us all breathe a lot easier.

My condolences and heart felt prayers to the families, friends, and colleagues of officers Gibson and Chestnut. I ask Americans around our nation to reflect upon the incident and keep the victim's families in their thoughts and prayers. God bless the brave men and women around the world, and God Bless America.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to reflect on the tragedy that occurred this past Friday in the House. Two of our finest in uniform in the United States Capitol Police force, Officer Jacob Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson, valiantly defended the hundreds of visitors, Members of Congress and their staffs who were milling about on that fateful Friday afternoon of July 24. Because they died, others lived.

I would like to quote a verse from the Bible which states "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends" John 15:13. Surely love, honor and duty were on the minds of these brave policemen as they stood to meet the challenge, never hesitating for a moment for their own safety.

Capitol Hill has lost outstanding policemen and two families have lost a beloved but Heaven has gained two angels with badges of honor. We look to the skies knowing that they continue to protect us. We will never forget them and what they did for us. We pray that God, in His infinite mercy, will be with the families in their grief; that he will grant them

peace and strength to carry on. I send them my deepest condolences.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues to honor the memories of two American heroes, U.S. Capitol Police Officers Jacob "J.J." Chestnut and John Gibson, who gave their lives last Friday so that others might live.

The U.S. Capitol Police are a unique law enforcement institution in America. They are charged with protecting members of the House and Senate, the Capitol itself, our congressional staffs, and the millions of tourists from around the world who visit this building. In performing this task, they are more than security personnel. They are ambassadors for our country, helping Americans find their way through the Capitol safely, answering questions, providing a helping hand. They help congressmen and staffs get to where they need to go. And over time, we get to know the Capitol Police well, by face if not always by name, so much so that they become like family to those of us who do the American people's work here as their elected representatives.

Officer Chestnut and Officer Gibson were family, Mr. Speaker. And as with the passing of any relative, near or distant, we feel sadness and a sense of loss. They died protecting people, and protecting a monument to represent government known by peoples around the world both free and oppressed.

The Bible says, "greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for his friends." Officers Chestnut and Gibson laid down their lives for us, and for the ideals of freedom and liberty that we hold dear. Our prayers are with their widows and their families. Our thanks are due to Chief Gary Abrecht and all of the U.S. Capitol Police, to House Sergeant at Arms Wilson Livingood and his staff, and to all of America's law enforcement officers, who have tragically lost two brave colleagues in the force.

And, Mr. Speaker, we should work to preserve the memory of these brave officers by continuing the work that they did for so many years: by keeping the Capitol open to the people. In doing so, we will remember the awful price that we have paid to obtain our freedom, the high price America must occasionally pay to keep it, and the terrible price that the Chestnut and Gibson families paid for it on Friday, July 24, 1998.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am both personally honored and saddened to join those who have offered us an opportunity to express our feelings about Friday's senseless tragedy.

Last Friday afternoon, the People's House was in its normal, hectic state. Visitors, young and old reverently roamed the halls where their government resides. Mothers and fathers provided their children with historical information about the work that goes on within the United States Capitol. Representatives had just concluded their legislative business and were rushing to return to their districts. Staff were busy putting the finishing touches on their duties for the week. Members of the Capitol Hill Police force, both seen and unseen, stood proudly in protection of the Capitol complex and those within it. All and all, this was a very normal Friday afternoon in the nation's capital.

As we all know now, a lone, mentally disturbed individual had already made his plans to forcibly deliver horror, grief and anguish

within our Capitol. This individual clearly had thoughts of causing chaos as he rushed his way past Officer Jacob (J.J.) Chestnut. Officer Chestnut was giving directions to the subway, as he had cheerfully done many times before. The gunman, without warning, drew his gun and shot Officer Chestnut, mortally wounding him. Officer Chestnut in this moment of turmoil stood gallantly at his post and died trying to save the lives of both friends and strangers. Officer Chestnut's actions were consistent with his training and with his personal values and beliefs. In life, Officer Chestnut lived an honorable life. At the moment of his death, Officer Chestnut became a genuine American hero.

A few doors away, Special Agent John Gibson was at his post. His duties were to protect the Majority Whip, Representative TOM DELAY. From his post, Special Agent Gibson, upon hearing gunfire, was ready to defend Representative DELAY, his staff and visitors from a mad man. He willingly stood tall in the face of imminent danger. In those frantic moments, Special Agent Gibson made a profound decision. By his actions, he refused to allow this gunman to hurt anyone under his protection. In the moment when Special Agent Gibson came face to face with evil incarnate, he vigilantly stood his ground. With just a few feet between them the gunman shot Special Agent Gibson. Despite his mortal wounds, Special Agent Gibson remained steadfast in his duties and brought this insane rampage to an end. In his sacrifice, Special Agent Gibson made certain that those whom he had sworn to defend would remain safe. In this moment, Special Agent Gibson instinctively and without hesitation became a genuine American hero.

At this time, when Americans look high and low in search of heroes, we can take some solace knowing that this search has ended. Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson, through the selfless actions have become our newest American heroes. They paid an ultimate price so that all Americans could continue to wander the halls of the People's House. All Americans owe them their deepest admiration and their profound respect. Americans must be willing to stand together as an American family, to reach out to console their families, colleagues and friends. We must repay this debt, although we also know in our hearts and souls that this is impossible.

I recall the words of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, speaking in Indianapolis on April 4, 1968, shortly after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. Kennedy addressed a crowd informing them of Dr. King's death. He concluded his remarks saying "Let us dedicate ourselves to what the Greeks wrote so many years ago: to tame the savageness of man and to make gentle the life of this world. Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson willingly and bravely gave their lives in pursuit of this noble ideal.

Robert F. Kennedy concluded his remarks saying "Let us dedicate ourselves to that, and say a prayer for our country and for our people."

This tragedy is deeply personal. Special Agent Gibson was my niece Evelyn's husband. I am proud to have recommended him for employment with the Capitol Police. Throughout his career, I have watched him as he progressed from being a uniformed officer to that of Special Agent protecting the leaders of the House of Representatives. Even then, I knew John was special. One of the qualities I

admired was his loyalty to his Boston roots. John followed all Boston sports teams, both collegiate and professional. Just a few weeks ago, he had stopped by to ask me to help him get a couple of tickets to an upcoming Notre Dame versus Boston College football game. He constantly sought out news from Boston hoping to keep his Massachusetts roots strong.

John was a religious man who sought strength and comfort from His Lord. As a family man, John excelled. He always made time for his wife and their three children. It comes as no surprise that John had earned the respect and admiration that John earned in both his personal and professional lives. From the Speaker of the House, the Majority Whip, his fellow officers, his neighbors and friends, I am humbled to learn of the high esteem in which they held John. I hope the kind words spoken about John will provide his family with some small measure of comfort in these dark times. I will always remember John as a kind, honest, devout, caring and giving human being.

In conclusion, I ask all Americans to join me in these difficult moments as we seek comfort, for their grieving families and for ourselves.

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to find the right words to express our sorrow at the tragedy that struck the Capitol on Friday afternoon.

Today we honor the memories of J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson, the Capitol Police officers who gave their lives protecting others. I join my colleagues in sending my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of these heroic men. I pray that in this time of such sorrow, they will be comforted by their own warm memories. I also hope that the Chestnut and Gibson families will take solace in the knowledge that people all over the world share in their grief. Tomorrow, we will honor these men in an unprecedented fashion by paying our respects as they lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda.

Here on Capitol Hill, we have lost two beloved members of our community, indeed our family. Private First Class Chestnut and Detective Gibson loved their jobs, loved their Congress, and loved their country. They were fixtures at their posts, J.J. at the Document Door, and John walking with the Majority Whip. They were the ultimate professionals, and each day went out of their way to improve the quality of life on Capitol Hill. We will never forget them.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Capitol Police force has been thrust into the limelight under the most terrible circumstances. Anyone who works here or visits these grounds knows what great people these women and men are, yet they never seem to receive the credit they deserve. When my husband, Congressman Walter Capps, passed away last October, Capitol Police personnel were incredibly comforting and helpful to me, my family, and my staff. These acts of kindness and compassion will always remain close to my heart.

As we commend the Capitol Police, I want to pay particular tribute to two officers. Officer Douglas B. McMillan took quick and decisive action after his partner J.J. Chestnut was shot. And Capitol Police spokesman Sgt. Dan Nichols has labored around the clock since the shootings providing the press and the American people with timely and sensitively-delivered updates. We are all indebted to the service of these men as well.

Mr. Speaker, nothing we can say or do will bring J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson back to us. But for the sake of their families, their colleagues, and the American people, we must pause and give them the tributes they deserve. We honor their memories and celebrate their lives. And we pray that violence and murder never again befall the people's House.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the concurrent resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the concurrent resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, on that, I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were— yeas 392, nays 0, not voting 43, as follows:

[Roll No. 340]

YEAS—392

Abercrombie	Clay	Fossella
Aderholt	Clayton	Fowler
Allen	Clement	Fox
Andrews	Clyburn	Frank (MA)
Archer	Coble	Franks (NJ)
Armye	Coburn	Frelinghuysen
Bachus	Collins	Frost
Baesler	Combest	Furse
Baker	Condit	Gallegly
Baldacci	Cook	Ganske
Ballenger	Cooksey	Gejdenson
Barcia	Costello	Gekas
Barr	Coyne	Gephardt
Barrett (NE)	Cramer	Gibbons
Barrett (WI)	Crane	Gilchrest
Bartlett	Crapo	Gillmor
Barton	Cubin	Gilman
Bass	Cummings	Gingrich
Bateman	Cunningham	Goode
Bentsen	Danner	Goodlatte
Bereuter	Davis (FL)	Goodling
Berman	Davis (IL)	Gordon
Berry	Davis (VA)	Goss
Bilbray	Deal	Graham
Bilirakis	DeGette	Granger
Bishop	Delahunt	Green
Blagojevich	DeLauro	Greenwood
Bliley	DeLay	Gutierrez
Blumenauer	Deutsch	Gutknecht
Blunt	Diaz-Balart	Hall (OH)
Boehkert	Dickey	Hall (TX)
Boehner	Dicks	Hall (TX)
Bonior	Dingell	Hamilton
Bono	Dixon	Hansen
Borski	Doggett	Hastert
Boswell	Dooley	Hastings (WA)
Boucher	Doolittle	Hayworth
Boyd	Doyle	Hefley
Brady (PA)	Dreier	Hefner
Brady (TX)	Duncan	Heger
Brown (CA)	Dunn	Hill
Brown (FL)	Edwards	Hilleary
Brown (OH)	Ehlers	Hilliard
Bryant	Ehrlich	Hinche
Bunning	Emerson	Hinojosa
Burr	Engel	Hobson
Burton	English	Hoekstra
Buyer	Ensign	Holden
Callahan	Eshoo	Hooley
Calvert	Etheridge	Horn
Camp	Evans	Hostettler
Campbell	Everett	Houghton
Canady	Ewing	Hoyer
Capps	Farr	Hulshof
Cardin	Fattah	Hunter
Carson	Fawell	Hutchinson
Castle	Fazio	Hyde
Chabot	Filner	Inglis
Chambliss	Foley	Istook
Chenoweth	Forbes	Jackson (IL)
Christensen	Ford	Jackson-Lee
		(TX)

Jefferson	Miller (CA)
Jenkins	Miller (FL)
John	Minge
Johnson (CT)	Mink
Johnson (WI)	Mollohan
Johnson, E. B.	Moran (KS)
Johnson, Sam	Moran (VA)
Jones	Morella
Kanjorski	Myrick
Kaptur	Neal
Kasich	Nethercutt
Kelly	Neumann
Kennedy (MA)	Ney
Kennedy (RI)	Northup
Kennelly	Norwood
Kildee	Nussle
Kilpatrick	Oberstar
Kim	Obey
Kind (WI)	Olver
King (NY)	Ortiz
Kleczka	Owens
Klink	Oxley
Klug	Packard
Knollenberg	Pallone
Kucinich	Pappas
LaFalce	Parker
LaHood	Pascrell
Lampson	Pastor
Lantos	Paul
Latham	Paxon
LaTourette	Payne
Lazio	Pease
Leach	Pelosi
Lee	Peterson (MN)
Levin	Peterson (PA)
Lewis (KY)	Petri
Linder	Pickering
Livingston	Pitts
LoBiondo	Pombo
Lofgren	Porter
Lowe	Portman
Lucas	Pryce (OH)
Luther	Quinn
Maloney (CT)	Radanovich
Maloney (NY)	Rahall
Manton	Ramstad
Manzullo	Rangel
Martinez	Redmond
Mascara	Regula
Matsui	Reyes
McCarthy (NY)	Riley
McCollum	Rivers
McCrary	Rodriguez
McDermott	Roemer
McGovern	Rogan
McHale	Rogers
McHugh	Rohrabacher
McInnis	Rothman
McIntosh	Roukema
McIntyre	Royce
McKeon	Rush
McKinney	Ryun
McNulty	Sabo
Meehan	Salmon
Meek (FL)	Sanchez
Meeks (NY)	Sanders
Menendez	Sandlin
Metcalf	Sawyer
Mica	Saxton
Millender-	Scarborough
McDonald	Schaffer, Bob

Schumer
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Shimkus
Sisisky
Skaggs
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (OR)
Smith (TX)
Smith, Adam
Smith, Linda
Snowbarger
Snyder
Solomon
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stabenow
Stearns
Stenholm
Stokes
Strickland
Stump
Stupak
Sununu
Talent
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tierney
Towns
Traficant
Turner
Upton
Velazquez
Vento
Visclosky
Wamp
Waters
Watkins
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Weygand
White
Wicker
Wilson
Wise
Wolf
Woolsey
Wynn
Young (AK)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 340, in support of H. Con. Res. 311, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 310. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a memorial service for Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate passed a concurrent resolution of the following title, in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 112. Concurrent resolution to authorize the printing of the eulogies of the Senate and the House of Representatives for Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair desires to announce that following adjournment tonight, Members are invited to attend a joint party conference caucus for a briefing here in the Chamber.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 27, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on July 27, 1998 at 4:13 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he reports of one proposed rescission of budget resources.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk.

PROPOSED RESCISSION OF BUDGETARY AUTHORITY — MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-290)

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:
To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report one proposed

NOT VOTING—43

Ackerman	Lipinski	Schaefer, Dan
Becerra	Markey	Shuster
Bonilla	McCarthy (MO)	Stark
Cannon	McDade	Tauzin
Conyers	Moakley	Thompson
Hill	Murtha	Tiahrt
Cox	Nadler	Torres
DeFazio	Pickett	Walsh
Gonzalez	Pomeroy	Waxman
Harman	Poshard	Wexler
Hastings (FL)	Price (NC)	Whitfield
Kingston	Riggs	Yates
Kolbe	Ros-Lehtinen	Young (FL)
Largent	Roybal-Allard	
Lewis (CA)	Sanford	
Lewis (GA)		

□ 2027

So the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.