

America who every day protect all of our lives.

We are doing that in Washington, and I would just ask this country to come together in this time of national sorrow and allow us to all more fully appreciate the public safety heroes and role models in America who truly are the best that America has to offer.

IN HONOR OF DETECTIVE JOHN M. GIBSON AND OFFICER J.J. CHESTNUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, as a representative of the people of the Third Congressional District of Maryland, I rise today to speak in honor of Detective John M. Gibson and Officer J.J. Chestnut of the Capitol Hill Police.

These last few days here on Capitol Hill have been somber ones and many of us have been given to thoughts of the abruptness of life; how one minute you can accept the greeting of an officer as you walk to work and the next you learn that you will never hear those words again, that he has been slain in a heroic stand to save your life and the lives of your coworkers and hundreds of strangers.

These are sad times, Mr. Speaker. Yet we should not, we cannot, allow the sadness to overwhelm the message of the lives of Officers Chestnut and Gibson. There is a message rooted in the ideas of democracy and duty. Democracy has a price. In a day and age when life for so many of us is so good, some of us may have forgotten that.

Tragically, the Chestnut and Gibson families know that the price for their father and husband was life itself. But it was their sense of duty, their commitment to protecting this building that stands for democracy and the people in it, that should force all of us to consider our own duty to democracy.

It is said that Robert E. Lee once wrote to his son, and I quote: "Duty, then, is the sublimest word of our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more, you should never wish to do less."

I wish to offer my condolences to the Chestnut and Gibson families. I want to tell them that the lives of these great men and what they did for me, my colleagues, and all America last Friday will always be remembered and honored, but also remembered and honored for what it meant to the twin ideals of democracy and duty.

I want them to know that even if Officers Gibson and Chestnut had never heard these words from General Lee, they lived them, nonetheless. These two men could not have done more for me, and I hope to use their example to never wish to do less.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, as the representative of the Third District of Virginia, I rise to add my voice to the chorus of supporters of families and friends of Special Agent John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut in these painful hours.

"Senseless" is the word that keeps coming back to me as I think of the loss to the families and to our community of the lives and contributions of these two fine public servants. The only thing that was not senseless about the tragedy was their bravery and sense of duty in sacrificing their own lives to protect the lives of others and to keep the people's House open to the public.

Any loss of life as a result of tragedy is painful to the entire community, but when it comes as a result of a senseless tragedy such as this, we also feel anger, disgust and bewilderment over the loss of their lives and the suffering brought upon their families, friends, and our Nation as a result of a senseless act. No words are ever adequate under these circumstances. Yet I wish to join the long line of my colleagues in Congress to express my deep sorrow and sympathy to the families of these brave officers and to try to find a way to come to grips with this tragedy in our midst.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate and honor the lives and contributions of Special Agent John Gibson and Officer J.J. Chestnut to this Congress and to this community and to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRAVERY OF DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON AND OFFICER J.J. CHESTNUT

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, shots rang out in the Halls of this Capitol, and today we come together to remember two officers and the tragedy that has befallen all of us. Even in the midst of tragedy, we must reflect on the fact that these two men were defending this Capitol, the Capitol which is a symbol of freedom around the world. These two men not only gave their lives in the line of duty and in order to protect innocent citizens, but also to protect freedom.

Throughout the history of this Nation, there have been several demonstrations perpetrated on the walls of this Capitol in a way to scar the symbol of freedom. In each instance we have reached within us to find the strength to go on because we realize that which is so precious must continue.

Officers Gibson and Chestnut have made the ultimate sacrifice for us, and they would want us to continue on, to take up their post and to continue to preserve this Democratic institution. We as a nation owe it to them to do just that.

Although they are not here anymore with us, we remember them as the he-

roes they are. There is no way to fill the void they have left in their families. I can only say to the families of Officers Gibson and Chestnut, may not a month, not a week, not even a day go by that you and we do not forget that these two men will always be our heroes in the truest sense of the word.

As the light on top of the Capitol burns bright at night, may it be a constant reminder of our freedom and our fallen heroes. May that light always shine bright for the memories of Officers Gibson and Chestnut, because they paid the ultimate sacrifice to preserve the principles of this country and for which that light burns so bright.

We must continue to hear the sound of freedom that rang out Friday afternoon and every day here, not the sound of one cowardly, solitary enemy of freedom. Let freedom ring in our ears, and their memories in our hearts, as we stand here in the people's Chamber and as we also stand in the rotunda of the Capitol Building itself, which, in its majesty, fairly reaches up to the heavens, just as the souls of these two brave officers rose Friday to heaven to join our Lord God in eternal bliss.

In God they trust, and as the words raised in marble behind me state, In God We Trust, Now and Forever.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF OFFICER JACOB CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

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

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the tragic loss of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson serve as a painful reminder that every day the men and women of the United States Capitol Police put their lives on the line, prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson were called upon to make that sacrifice without any second thought. They simply did that to protect others.

So much of what is said and done in these Halls is a symbol for communities across the Nation. Sadly, the service and sacrifice of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson represent the 91 law enforcement officers who have given their lives just this year alone in the United States. Three of these slain officers served in the community I represent, the city of Tampa in Hillsborough County.

When we lost Police Detectives Randy Bell, Ricky Childers and Trooper James Brad Crooks, it dug a hole in our heart and took our breath away. That tragedy also brought our community closer together, and it deepened our respect and appreciation for the men and women who serve as law enforcement officers and their families as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a poem that brought comfort to our community at that time of tragedy. It was read at the funeral of the slain officers

in Tampa. It is an anonymous poem, it is entitled, "Miss Me, But Let Me Go."

When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room,
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little, but not too long
And not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that was once shared,
Miss me, but let me go.

For this is a journey we all must take,
And each must go alone.
It's all part of the Master's plan,
A step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick of heart,
Go to the friends we know,
And bury your sorrows in good deeds.
Miss me, but let me go.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of these courageous officers. May they rest in peace.

I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding me this time.

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 would 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 oftentimes we 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 do to help, someone who always 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 in protecting their fellow citizens. They paid the supreme price so that others may live. They leave behind families, friends, coworkers, 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 the 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.

HONORING THE BRAVERY OF DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON AND OFFICER J.J. CHESTNUT

(Mr. SKEEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, the Nation mourns the death of two Capitol law enforcement officers whose lives were taken in the tragic shooting incident last Friday during a busy time in our Nation's Capitol.

As we reflect on this sadness, I cannot help but think what could have happened if these two men had not been so courageous and sacrificed their own lives so that others may live, and for this we owe them a great deal of thanks and gratitude for protecting the lives of all who visit and work in the Nation's Capitol. Today we honor their memory and pay tribute to their heroic action.

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We offer our heartfelt sympathy to the families of Officers Chestnut and Gibson, to Mrs. Chestnut and Mrs. Gibson. We know your deep sense of loss. For that we pray, so that you may somehow feel comfort during this difficult time.

And to your children, we can only hope that your pain will heal in time by knowing that your father is a national hero, and will always be remembered as a courageous and honorable man who gave his life to protect others. May God bless you and may God bless America.

Let me say one other thing that was a gift from these gentlemen. They unified this House, this great Capitol, the two Houses, and we are unified throughout the United States in awe of this great gift that these two gentlemen have afforded us. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts, and will remember them always.

COMMENDING AND HONORING OFFICER JACOB J. CHESTNUT AND SPECIAL AGENT JOHN M. GIBSON

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise for the constituents of the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey in support of two great men who gave their lives on Friday to protect our Nation's Capitol and its visitors. I send my greatest condolences out to the families of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Special Agent John M. Gibson for their bravery and quick action last Friday.

It is the Capitol Hill Police Force that makes it possible for us to do our jobs every day. They also make it possible for all visitors to the Capitol to be able to experience the legislative process, the proceedings which taken here.

I would like to commend and honor those two great men today for their years of service and bravery while protecting everyone who comes to this Nation's Capitol. This tragedy has

touched all of our lives, because it reminds us that no one is protected from violence and guns and people in need of mental care, even in the halls of Congress.

I have had the pleasure of getting to know many who serve on the Capitol Police Force, and I commend them, as always, for their sharp responses to situations, in addition to their friendly disposition. It has been an honor to have such men as Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson, who protected us while we were in these hallowed halls.

I will forever be indebted to them for their commitment and protection, and for the safety of the public. They are true heroes, and their bravery is testimony to the best of what our country has to offer.

The Capitol Police officers who selflessly gave their lives are not the only ones who need to be remembered. There was also an innocent bystander who was injured by stray bullets as she escorted her family around the Capitol, Angela Dickerson. I want to send my deepest condolences to her and husband Steve, and their entire family.

Angela was the innocent victim of that random act of violence. I wish her the best of luck in her recovery. We are rooting for her quick and painless recovery, and Angela, we hope that you will come back again to join us in the Capitol, despite your unfortunate experience. This is the people's House, and it must remain just that, open to the people of this Nation.

Angela's experience remains us that no one is protected from random acts of violence. One of my interns, Teresa, was directly above the shooting after delivering a resolution to the floor, and she was lucky not to be directly at the scene. This has been a sad and emotional experience for all of us, whether we knew the victims or not.

Let me just say that prior to my time in Congress, I served as an elected official in municipal and county offices. On the local level, law enforcement, outside of education, is the largest expenditure of local budgets. Because of this, a lot of time is spent with law enforcement people, and we become more cognizant of their sacrifices, the long hours of the police officers, their time away from their families, the day-to-day danger, and their overall dedication of public service.

Let me conclude by saying that an old Negro spiritual said, Let the work that I have done speak for me. There was the age-old saying that, if you can help somebody along the way, then your living shall not be in vain. Officer Chestnut and Agent Gibson's work that they have done speaks for them, and certainly their living has not been in vain.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. DANNER).

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN GIBSON AND JACOB CHESTNUT

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, the Bible tells us, greater love hath no man than