

longer sting with any finality, that there is an eternal life waiting for us. From Psalm 121 we are assured that God alone is the source of strength that counts in our hard and difficult times: "Our help cometh from the Lord which made Heaven and earth." In Romans 8 we are promised that the love of God will never be separated from God's people in Jesus Christ. Not even death can remove us from the presence and love of God. Psalm 23 reassures us that God is like a compassionate shepherd who is constantly looking out for his sheep, and always sees to the best care of his flock. "I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me. . . And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever." In John 14 Jesus promises that there will be a place for us in His eternal home. And that He will come again to escort us to our new "mansion." George has found his place there in Heaven already. Maybe it will help us to know in our moments of sadness, that someday we too will find our way there to our special eternal room, and rejoice George for a glorious and happy reunion in the presence of God.

CRISIS ON THE BORDER

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, there is a crisis on our border. As the representative for over 800 miles of the Mexican border I know all too well the extent of the threat to America's law abiding border communities.

This Congress has dramatically increased funding for the Border Patrol. I am proud to have led the effort for this increased funding. However, far more needs to be done. Agents have been transferred to other regions. Courts and prisons are underfunded; and drug runners and alien smugglers are making this part of America a base for their operations.

Our pleas for help along the border have not fallen on deaf ears. The Appropriations bill before us today offers hope in fighting this criminal plague. This Treasury, Postal Appropriation increases funding for the Office of National Drug Control Policy by about 25%. This money can be used to combat the drug runners threatening Americans in Texas border communities, farms and ranchers.

It is now up the Administration to spend this money on the border, the front line of the drug war, not on more Washington bureaucrats. The drug czar himself was recently in Eagle Pass, Texas. He saw with his own eyes and he heard with his own ears of the dangers our poor border communities confront. He now should know first-hand the problems border residents face.

Today we are voting to give him the resources to conduct this fight. We are restoring cuts made in previous White House budgets. I hope we have gotten the White House's attention now that this is an election year. The evidence has been seen and resources provided. Americans along the border have the same right to safety and security as other Americans.

My colleagues, this legislation provides the resources to stop the drug runners and end the crisis on the border. If you care about the safety and security of your fellow Americans along the border vote for this Treasury, Postal Appropriations bill.

IMPROVEMENTS TO H.R. 2634

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, on November 14, 1995, I introduced H.R. 2634, a bill to allow persons to carry concealed firearms in every State if they have been issued a license to do so by any State. It was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary and subsequently referred to Subcommittee on Crime.

H.R. 2634 provided that a person with a permit to carry a concealed firearm in one State may carry a concealed firearm in any State "in accordance with the terms of the license." This meant that a person with a license from State A could carry in State B according to the rules of State A. Therefore, individuals' rights and privileges would differ in the same State depending on their State of origin. For example, a person licensed in State A traveling to State B would be able to exercise different privileges in State B than an individual licensed in State C who was traveling to State B, as well. This language would require law enforcement officers to know the right-to-carry laws of all 50 States because individuals licensed in different States would be allowed to carry in their State under varying laws.

To address the above mentioned problems, I have introduced the new Stearns right-to-carry bill, which is designed to facilitate its implementation by allowing (a) that the law of each State governs conduct within the State where the State has a right-to-carry statute; and (b) that Federal law provide a bright-line standard of conduct applicable to States that do not have a right-to-carry statute.

Under the new Stearns bill, if State A has a right-to-carry statute, an individual's conduct who was licensed in State B would be governed by the right-to-carry laws of State A while he was traveling with State A. Therefore, if State A imparts more privileges upon individual licensed to carry than State B, then the individual licensed in State B would be governed by the right to carry laws of State A while he was in State A.

The individual licensed in State B would also be in compliance with the law if he carried in State C with no right-to-carry statute pursuant to the Federal bright-line standard. The Federal bright-line standard governing those States with no right-to-carry statute would solve the problem of States with no carry licenses and thus no standards. This Federal bright-line standard governs conduct only, meaning it governs where one may not carry a concealed firearm notwithstanding the fact that they have a license to carry. It is intended to make clear that an individual may not carry a concealed firearm in certain highly sensitive locations such as court rooms, police stations, schools, and other locations.

The Federal bright-line standard is not a licensing mechanism. Licenses to carry would still need to be lawfully obtained from a State which has a licensing mechanism.

Precedent already exists for Federal standards which preempt State law in this area. Title 15 United States Code, section 902 provides that members of armored car crews with licenses to carry issued by a State "shall be entitled to lawfully carry any weapons to which such license relates in any State while such

crew member is acting in the service of such company."

A Federal standard governs the conduct of nonresidents in those States that do not have a right-to-carry statute. However, States that do have their own right-to-carry statutes can be assured that their State laws will be respected by nonresidents who are within their borders. This legislation greatly benefits and protects this Nation's every increasingly mobile society. I believe citizens have the right to protect themselves and their families anywhere in America. It does not make sense for Americans to forfeit their safety because they happen to be on vacation or on a business trip.

However, if the law of a given State explicitly allows licensee's to carry in some places not authorized in the Federal standard, it certainly makes no sense for the nonresident to be in violation while the resident would not be held in violation. The new Stearns bill would authorize the carrying of a concealed firearm by a licensee if the licensee's conduct meets the conditions of the State law through which the nonresident is traveling or if their conduct meets the Federal bright-line rule.

I also added language to address the concerns of the law enforcement community. The new bill exempts qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

I urge all of the cosponsors of my first bill, H.R. 2634 to cosponsor this newly drafted and much improved concealed weapons reciprocity bill.

RECOGNIZING MARION MCCONNELL

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

Mr. BAKER of California, Mr. Speaker, recently a remarkable woman in my district in California was named the 1996 Red Cross Volunteer of the Year. Marion McConnell of Moraga was recognized for her 46 years of outstanding service at a National Red Cross ceremony in Cleveland, OH earlier this year.

For almost five decades, Marion has served by registering donors with the Red Cross Bloodmobile, chairing the Berkeley chapter of the Red Cross, writing the manual for coordinating the volunteer program, traveling the 11 Western States teaching from the manual to other Red Cross personnel, and coordinating volunteer activities at emergencies and disasters around the United States.

Marion helped consolidate numerous local chapters into a single chapter which encompasses the 5 Bay Area counties, a chapter now having roughly 3,400 volunteers.

Marion McConnell has given aid to countless hurting people in crisis after crisis. Her devotion to the work of the Red Cross has brought about transfusions for accident victims, food and shelter for victims of earthquakes and floods, and education for new volunteers who want to learn how to serve efficiently. Yet Marion's superb leadership has also meant a warm smile, a comforting word, and a caring spirit to frightened and distraught people who have seen their homes and even livelihoods vanish in an instant. This is a gift that cannot be measured but whose value is inestimable.