

Mr. Speaker, the security of the American people is perhaps the most important issue we must address in the post-September 11 world, but we must address it in a smart way. As the world's largest democracy, we have a responsibility to utilize all diplomatic possibilities before resorting to force.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2361, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-87) on the resolution (H. Res. 287) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2361) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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

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

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask permission to claim the time of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus has been in the forefront of the fight to preserve the filibuster, a much-used, indeed used more against African Americans than any others. We do not want to see and will not stand to see the rules changed when it could now be used to protect us from judges who would overturn our rights.

We have supported the idea of a compromise, if one could be found; but I

come to the floor this evening to say that we are horrified to hear of a possible compromise involving two judges that would be most unacceptable to the 43 members of the Congressional Black Caucus who unanimously oppose elimination of the filibuster and unanimously oppose these two judges: Attorney General William Pryor, who would be nominated to the 11th Circuit; and Janice Rogers Brown, who would be nominated to the D.C. Court of Appeals.

Briefly, Attorney General Pryor in this year when we are starting the reauthorization of the 1965 Voting Rights Act would simply be totally unacceptable to us and we think to most Americans. This is a man who sought to repeal the critical section of the Voting Rights Act, who has indicated that some rights now protected by the Constitution should be regarded as social disputes and essentially has indicated that some of these rights now protected by the Constitution should indeed be left to the States. This is a man who belongs perhaps on the Supreme Court in the 19th century, not today.

We are particularly insulted that President Bush would resubmit the name of Janice Rogers Brown. Has he done so because she is African American and somehow he believes that for that reason people will go easy on her and not look at what in fact she has stood for? We regard her nomination as nothing short of insulting. When she was first nominated to the California Supreme Court, the signal from the California Association of Black Lawyers who opposed her nomination was that her appointment could be detrimental, as they put it, to black America with nothing short of, as they put it, far reaching circumstances for generations to come. How right they proved to be. When she was renominated to the California Supreme Court, 20 of the 23 members of the California bar found her to be not qualified because of the way she inserted her personal opinions, her personal views, into her judicial opinions.

Janice Rogers Brown and the rule of law are strangers. She has no regard for precedent. How else to explain a ruling of hers where she found that racially derogatory on-the-job speech was unconstitutional even though the Supreme Court long ago found that such speech is not protected by title VII of the Civil Rights Act. Why did she find herself in dissent reaching this conclusion?

I recite the cases because you hear that these judges are extreme. We mean to make you understand, hopefully, what we mean by extreme. Proposition 209 passed, an anti-affirmative action proposition, passed in California. The judge who was on her side of the case, the Chief Justice, Ronald George, also appointed by Governor Pete Wilson, said when he read her concurrence, remember, concurrence with him, that the concurrence raised "a se-

rious distortion of history," indicating that it would be widely and correctly viewed as presenting an unfair and inaccurate caricature of affirmative action programs. When a judge on your side appointed by the same Governor as you characterizes your agreement with him in this way, is he not telling the Senate something it must listen to?

Here is a woman who found that black women in a case involving a prosecution where the prosecution may have used racial preemptory challenges found that black women are not a cognizable group. Again, she has often found herself in dissent even from her own Republican colleagues.

We do not need this woman on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals where she would bring her views that "the New Deal was the triumph of our own socialist revolution" to Washington.

SERGEANT MIKE LANE

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor Sergeant Mike Lane, a lifelong Texan, member of the Beaumont Police Department for 33 years. Each day a person who wears the badge walks the thin blue line between life and death. Their spouses wonder when their police officer mate reports for duty if that person will return safely home. Last year, 156 of them did not return home to their families. Texas, along with California, each led the Nation last year with 14 police officers killed in the line of duty. Sergeant Mike Lane was one of them.

Mike Lane graduated from Beaumont High School in 1969 and received his pilot's license even prior to high school graduation at the young age of 17. He attended Lamar Tech, now Lamar University, until he decided to answer the call of law enforcement. In 1972, Sergeant Lane joined the Beaumont Police Department where his lengthy legacy began. He spent 32 years with the same police department in southeast Texas, fighting crime, helping people.

A son of a retired Air Force member, Mike Lane was raised in airplane hangars all over the world from Japan to the United States. He had the passion of the Wright brothers for flying. He had aviation in his Texas blood. In the mid-80s, the Beaumont Police Department seized a plane used to smuggle drugs from Belize to Texas. After acquiring the plane, they began using it for local missions. Sergeant Lane immediately jumped at the chance to get in the pilot's seat for the citizens of Jefferson County. He was one of the two designated pilots for the Beaumont Police Department.

Just as policemen are drawn together by common goals, pilots seem to congregate together as well. His partner in the sky was another pilot in the police department, Deputy Chief Weldon

Dunlap. Deputy Chief Dunlap recalls, "Mike had an amazing wealth of knowledge about aircraft. He literally ate, drank, and slept airplanes."

When the Army gave the Beaumont Police Department two helicopters, it was only natural that Lane would be heavily involved in the helicopter operations that would come up. Any time there was a mission or training, Lane was the first in line to take part in it.

On the evening of September 15, 2004, the neighboring Port Arthur Police Department reported a boat fire on Sabine Lake. Lane was one of two pilots who was called to duty for the search and rescue mission that took place that moonless night, a night that Deputy Chief Dunlap recalled was extra dark. During the flight, Lane was tasked with shining the spotlight on the large, murky, marshy Sabine Lake near the Texas-Louisiana border while the other officer maneuvered the helicopter through the intense, immense darkness that surrounded them.

Flying a mere 6 feet above the lake in an effort to get closer and look for people or debris in the water, Sergeant Lane was once again fulfilling his oath to protect and serve the people.

Sergeant Lane and crew made last contact shortly after 10:30 p.m. and after that, there was only silence, silence in the stillness of the damp, dark, dreary night. A helicopter search team spotted the wreckage almost 4 hours later at 2 o'clock in the morning. Jefferson County Sheriff's Deputy Jeremy Battenfield, who was piloting the helicopter, survived the crash with minor injuries; but in the line of duty, doing what he loved and what he did best at the age of 54, Sergeant Mike Lane lost his life in the stillness of that September night.

Hundreds of law enforcement members from across Texas and Louisiana traveled to South Park Baptist Church in Beaumont to pay their respects to a unique and talented officer and pilot that will never be replaced. He was laid to rest in the same church where he served as a deacon and a mentor to kids.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I had the opportunity to participate in the Fraternal Order of Police's 24th annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service here on the Capitol grounds to remember those police officers killed last year. I was honored to join the multitude of officers and surviving family members who traveled to Washington to assure their comrades that they never walk alone. I spent time with Sergeant Lane's wife, Renee; his son Ben; and his two sisters; and I was moved by the memories they had of their husband, their father, and their brother.

Mr. Speaker, there are more than 800,000 members of the law enforcement community in this Nation. They wear the badge, and with that badge they become a cut above the rest of us. They do what most of us would not do. They watch out for our country, our kids, our family and our great land.

In 2004, 156 officers were killed in the line of duty. Last year, our military lost nearly 900 of its band of brothers during operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. And while we often pay daily tribute to our fallen military who have been combating outlaws across the sea, these warriors against domestic outlaws, our police officers, often remain nameless, statistical heroes.

When President Bush spoke this last weekend, he stated that every generation of Americans has produced men and women willing to stand in watch over the rest of us. They are peace officers. When Sergeant Lane lost his life on the Sabine Lake that night, he did not die alone. His conviction, courage, and character live on and his spirit watches over his friends and family and the citizens of Jefferson County, Texas, that he devoted his life in protecting.

Thank you, Sergeant Mike Lane.

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

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

CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE INDUSTRIES

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an industry in my congressional district that is being frustrated, squeezed, uncertain about its future as a result of our trade policy, globalization and the general tenor of the times. I rise to talk about the Chicago Lighthouse Industries, which has made clocks for the Federal Government for the last 28 years. They have been consistent and diligent in their performance. Since 1977, the Chicago Lighthouse has made 3.3 million clocks. In fact, last year they made 104,000 clocks for all branches of the military, Energy Department, the Postal Service, and the Justice Department.

The unique thing about the Chicago Lighthouse is that they employ more than 40 people who are blind or are visually impaired.

□ 2000

They employ their workers at a salary of \$8.50 an hour and provide health benefits. On a recent visit to the Chicago Lighthouse, I was amazed at the level of detail and speed at which the workers developed the clocks. They have an assembly line that produces in packages 1,000 wall clocks daily.

In fact, Rita McCabe can assemble a 12-inch clock in less than 1 minute. Ms. McCabe, who is blind, found her job through the Chicago Lighthouse. When asked how she felt about her job, she stated the following: "It gives me a

chance to be with people, to make a living on my own, and to prove that I am competent enough to do this kind of work."

Ms. McCabe has worked for the Chicago Lighthouse for 25 years. Rita McCabe's job is in jeopardy due to competition from foreign sources. In the past 4 years, U.S. imports of wall clocks, most of them from China, have increased by 24 percent, totaling \$123 million in 2003.

The Chicago Lighthouse does not mind competition. They have suggested that they can compete with anyone as long as the rules are the same. Unfortunately, the playing field is not level when it comes to competing with China and other countries that do not have a minimum-wage requirement or pay health benefits to their workers. The Chicago Lighthouse pays its workers an average of \$8.50 per hour plus health benefits. In China, it is not uncommon for workers to make \$2 an hour and have no benefits. China is able to undercut clock manufacturers like the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind because they do not play by the same rules. They are able to dump their products into the United States for a cheaper price. This adds to the trade deficit that currently exists.

More importantly, to allow foreign governments who do not pay minimum wage or a livable wage nor provide benefits to continue to undercut U.S. companies like the Chicago Lighthouse erodes the faith that citizens have in government and puts many jobs here at home at risk. The Chicago Lighthouse is not asking for preferential treatment. They are seeking fundamental fairness. The Lighthouse has been in existence now for 99 years, and they have done something right to be able to survive for so long.

The Federal Government, as a result of the Javitz-Wagner-O'Day Act, is required to show favor towards the Chicago Lighthouse and other organizations like it when purchasing clocks through the General Services Administration. However, this law has been eroded and many Federal purchases are going for the lower-priced clocks. Obviously, these are the clocks that are being produced through cheaper labor costs. The Federal Government must set the example and ensure that taxpayer money is not going to support foreign governments that do not have minimum wage or benefit standards comparable to those in the United States.

Everything comes at a price. The workers at Chicago Lighthouse are able to be productive tax-paying citizens because of their jobs. These jobs help to support them, their families, and the local economy. For example, Mr. Albert Harris has been with the Chicago Lighthouse since 1971, able to work, though blind.

Mr. Speaker, the Chicago Lighthouse and other entities that employ our people must be able to continue to do so. Let us make sure that our trade policies are fair and equitable and that