

a deep debt of gratitude to those heroic passengers who foiled the terrorists' plan and saved the lives of countless Americans working and visiting in the U.S. Capitol.

In our darkest hour, Americans everywhere joined together in acts of bravery, compassion and hope. Our first responders worked round-the-clock to help those in need, and millions of us gave our time and resources to relief organizations like the American Red Cross. In the months following September 11th we found comfort and pride in each other. We were all Americans, and we were determined to move our great Nation forward.

Madam Speaker, our number one duty is to ensure the safety and security of the American people. Our brave men and women in uniform are fighting around the globe so that our children can grow up in a world absent of war and terrorism. We pay tribute to their bravery and to their sacrifice on this anniversary of September 11th, 2001.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1420, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001. Many of us were here in Washington on that fateful day and knew that our lives had changed forever.

House Resolution 1420 recognizes September 11 as a day of solemn commemoration. This resolution extends our deepest condolences again to the friends, families, and loved ones of the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. H. Res. 420 also honors the heroic service, actions and sacrifices of the first responders, officials and volunteers who came to the aid of the victims of these attacks. On this day, we remember the selfless valor that so many Americans displayed. This resolution also expresses our gratitude to the foreign leaders and citizens of all nations who have joined with the United States in fighting terrorism. H. Res. 1420 recognizes the service and sacrifices of the United States Armed Forces and their families who remain in the front lines of this fight.

Although we pause on September 11th to reflect and say thanks, on this day we should also remember that the forces that divide us from one another can never overcome the transcendent unity we have as Americans. As H. Res. 1420 states, this unspeakable act of terrorism "was designed to intimidate the Nation and its allies, and to weaken the national resolve." However, seven years ago in the face of this tragedy, Members of Congress stood united, shoulder to shoulder on the steps on this Capitol and pledged to work together to remember this day and honor the sacrifice of the fallen. Today we remember that pledge.

In appreciation of that spirit, in memory of the valor of the heroes and the fallen of that day, I urge colleagues to join me in voting for House Resolution 1420.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my House colleagues in support of this resolution recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance; extending sympathies to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and their families; honoring the heroic actions of our Nation's first responders and armed forces, and reaffirming the commitment to defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges.

We all will always remember where we were on that fateful morning of September 11,

2001, a beautiful, sunny and clear early autumn day in the Nation's capital when terrorists launched their attacks on America. It is etched forever in our memories.

We will never forget—those who died; those who survived and live with the scars; the firemen who ran up the stairs of the World Trade Center to save lives and gave theirs; the heroes on the plane in Pennsylvania; the families left behind whose lives will always have a void; the neighbors, the friends, the countless strangers who performed selfless acts of kindness we will never even know about.

On this solemn anniversary I always think back to the sermon the pastor of my church gave the Sunday after September 11 when he said: "Life is fragile. Evil is real. God is sure."

Life is fragile. It can end in an instant. The families of those who died in the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in a field in Pennsylvania never thought that would be their last day to see their loved ones.

A woman in New York said, "We parted with a kiss on the Union Square Subway platform at around half past eight that morning. Jason was heading to his new job at Cantor Fitzgerald in the World Trade Center; I was heading to my office in SoHo. He must have made it to his desk moments before the plane struck the building."

Evil is real. We saw on September 11 that evil men did evil deeds to innocent people. Thirty people from Virginia's 10th congressional district died on 9/11. I went to the Pentagon that day and saw with my own eyes the destruction. I returned to the Pentagon this morning to join the dedication of the beautiful and moving memorial to those who died there seven years ago.

I went to Ground Zero in New York City two months after 9/11 and saw the devastation. I saw the notes written on the wooden railing of the viewing platform from family members. One said, "I love you Daddy" in a childish scrawl. Another said, "We miss you Dad. When you look down we hope we will always make you proud."

Evil is real, but God is sure. Psalm 46 says: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way, and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

Our lives changed on September 11, and in many ways are still changing and will continue to change. Clearly, we are much more aware of the threat we now face.

We had heroes on 9/11—those who lost their lives and those who tried to save them—and we continue to have heroes today. They are the brave men and women who are fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq showing the terrorists that we will take the fight to them. They are the thousands of civilian employees at numerous Federal agencies supporting those efforts.

Some of those heroes, like those on 9/11, have given their lives to protect our way of life. To them and to their families, we will be forever grateful.

I am reminded of a quote from President Ronald Reagan, who was such an optimist. He believed in America and for what she

stands. He once said in describing America, "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we can always be free."

Indeed, we will always remember. And we will always be grateful that we live in the United States of America where, it has been said, unlike almost any other nation on earth, our identity is rooted not in blood, religion or birthplace, but in the idea of freedom.

Freedom has never been with a price. We owe our lives to each and everyone who has paid that ultimate price so that we can continue to live in freedom. And so today, we remember 9/11 and those souls who perished, and we also honor those who responded to the horrific events of that day, and resolve to continue the fight against terrorism and those who would seek to destroy freedom.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1420.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debate.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION TO CONSIDER AS ADOPTED MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the ordering of the yeas and nays be vacated with respect to the motions to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 6608 and H.R. 6832, respectively, to the end that the motions be considered as adopted in the form considered by the House on Tuesday, September 9, 2008.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, respective motions to reconsider are laid on the table.

There was no objection.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

the motion to suspend the rules relating to H.R. 6475 be considered as adopted in the form considered by the House on Tuesday, September 9, 2008.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

There was no objection.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND RESTORATION ACT

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 6532) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the Highway Trust Fund balance.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

On page 3, line 2, strike "September 30, 2008" and insert "the date of the enactment of this Act".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to give Members 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 6532.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this bill passed the House on July 23, 2008, with bipartisan support by a vote of 387 yeas to 37 nays. The Department of Transportation has asked that this legislation be effective immediately. The Senate amended the House-passed bill to change the effective date and respond to the administration's request.

The trust fund is broke, out of money. Our State and local governments, drivers, construction workers and many others will suffer when highway projects are delayed. We took \$8 billion out of the trust fund in 1998, and now is the time to put that \$8 billion back.

I urge all of my colleagues again to support this important bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6532.

Today, just 7 weeks after the House first considered this bill transferring \$8 billion from the general fund to the highway trust fund, here we are, back again. I was one of 37 Members to vote against the bill when it was previously considered in the House. The bill simply kicks the can down the road just a little bit more until the highway trust fund is again broke.

Delay and bailout. Delay and bailout. This Congress is elected to run the country, yet we delay action, wring our hands, lament that there are few good options available to address the Nation's problems, then bail out programs gone broke. Our delay only makes the problem worse. Our delay only leaves us with fewer options once we are forced to act.

The bill before us today puts another temporary patch on a highway system that needs funding. Even with this \$8 billion infusion of cash, the trust fund is going to go broke again before the next Congress acts to address the underlying problem.

When the House initially passed this bill on July 23, the balance of the trust fund stood at \$4.2 billion. Now we learn from the Department of Transportation that in the span of just these few weeks, that balance has fallen all the way to \$1.4 billion as of the beginning of this month. So today the administration has called upon the Congress to approve this \$8 billion transfer and to make it effective immediately, rather than on September 30th, because the trust fund is likely to go broke sooner.

The highway funding system is based on fuel taxes that are declining at a time when the price of fuel is rising. Fewer people are driving because the cost of gas is skyrocketing.

The majority will not let us debate an energy bill. The majority Democrats will not let America work toward domestic oil and gas. Americans want, need and deserve a clear energy policy that uses American energy sources like oil and gas from offshore. Americans want, need and deserve an energy policy that develops new technologies and brings them to the market. Yet this Congress delays action and prevents debate.

If the highway bills that this Congress has passed were not larded up with thousands of earmarks, then spending from the trust fund could be better regulated to match taxes with spending. A little bit of self-control would solve this problem.

Unfortunately, the bill that will pass the House today shows no self-control. It is just another bailout.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on an issue on which our Nation is united, an issue that has had

an impact on millions of Americans, and that is the issue of restoring the highway trust fund.

I stand today as a proud cosponsor of H.R. 6532, and I wish to thank my distinguished colleagues, Chairman RANGEL, Chairman OBERSTAR, and Ranking Member MICA for bringing it to the floor for our consideration.

H.R. 6532 put \$8 billion into the highway account for the highway trust fund. It is critical to address the projected shortfall in the highway trust fund that would endanger nearly 380,000 jobs. The solvency of the trust fund is necessary to preserve highway investment and provide predictable, long-term Federal funding on which highway projects and State transportation budgets depend.

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This funding enables States to continue to finance highway projects that improve safety, ensure mobility, accessibility, increase the movement of people and goods, and promote a sound economy. Our Federal-State highway partnership is essential to the success of our Nation's surface transportation system, and those States must be assured the transportation funding pledged to them under Federal law, we hope, that will be available.

Coming from the State of New Jersey, which has the highest per capita population in the Nation and is dealing with an aging infrastructure, I know that this projected shortfall would have been devastating not only for the transportation projects but especially for job creation at this difficult time. In New Jersey alone, we have seen the loss of over \$305 million in Federal highway funds, which would have been compounded by the loss of over 10,000 jobs. That is why it is so imperative that we come together in a bipartisan fashion, to ensure that this shortfall is addressed properly.

I am glad to see that the Bush administration finally acknowledged the crisis with the highway trust fund, despite the President's earlier veto threat.

Looking ahead, we know that families are using less gasoline, hybrid cars are increasing mileage rates, and car pooling is taking more cars off the roads.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from New Jersey has expired.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. PASCRELL. I thank the gentleman.

Our Nation is facing a difficult economic environment. Commuters are flocking to increased bus and rail options due to fuel costs. We hope that those options are available. Just when we need more investment in highways and transit, the resources and the sources are dwindling.

This administration has consistently ignored the tough issues, such as advancing a real plan for renewal and expansion of the highway trust fund. In