

evidence-based, prevention-focused approaches. The bill offers states much-needed federal funding to support mental health, substance abuse and in-home parenting skills programs for families of children at-risk of entering foster care.”—American Academy of Pediatrics

“[The Family First Prevention Services Act] takes historic and long overdue steps to direct federal child welfare dollars to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families . . . [It] takes important steps to ensure children who need foster care will be placed in the least-restrictive most family-like setting appropriate to their needs, and gives special attention to children whose emotional or other special needs require residential treatment.”—Children’s Defense Fund

“We greatly appreciate the flexibility in federal funding for evidence-based prevention services and the strong focus in the [Families First Prevention Services Act] on child well-being”—Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin

“We strongly support the Family First [Prevention Services] Act and believe it would greatly improve the ability of child welfare agencies to keep children in their own homes and shorten their time in the system if they do enter.”—Juvenile Law Center

The [Family First Prevention Services Act] aligns very closely with what we consider an essential focus on preventing the occurrence and recurrence of child abuse and neglect whenever possible. It also supports the practice of keeping or returning kids safely home, rather than in foster care, whenever possible.”—Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

“Federal support for prevention services will be a win-win for children and families throughout the country”—Citizens’ Committee for Children

“The Act will expand the availability of such services and reflects the reality that many families, including adoptive families, need targeted, effective services to meet their children’s needs and prevent foster care entry.”—North American Council on Adoptable Children

“We firmly believe that far too many children are placed in group care for no therapeutic reason, which research suggests can harm children.”—North American Council on Adoptable Children

“We feel that the [Family First Prevention Services Act] offers the important possibility of allowing funds to provide vital mental health, substance use and in-home services that could help children stay with their own families.”—Child Welfare League of America

“[The Family First Prevention Services Act] takes historic and long overdue steps to direct federal child welfare dollars to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families.”—Voice for Adoption

“Supports offered through the Family First Prevention Services Act such as individual and family therapy, home visiting and kinship navigator programs can offer relatives the support they need to keep children out of foster care and help them thrive.”—Generations United

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CAPITOL HILL POLICE OFFICERS JOHN GIBSON AND JACOB CHESTNUT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, 18 years ago, the world tragically lost two Capitol police

officers when a gunman shot his way into the Capitol and, in a barrage of violent chaos, took the lives of Officers John Gibson and Jacob J. Chestnut.

I rise today to commemorate the tragic deaths of these two courageous officers, in the hopes of remembering that the safety we often take for granted here on Capitol Hill is both delicate and precious.

On July 24, 1998, at a time when the Capitol was packed with tourists and staff alike, a gunman sparked mass panic and chaos when he shot his way through a security checkpoint, killing two Capitol police officers.

The shooting was the first in the Capitol in nearly fifty years, and the worst since Congress first met in the Capitol in 1800.

In just a moment, the tranquility of the Capitol was transformed into a scene of chaos and pandemonium, as staffers and tourists alike ran for their lives.

After the shooter failed to bypass a security checkpoint’s metal detector, he immediately shot and killed Officer Chestnut, and later exchanged gunfire with Officer Gibson before fatally shooting him as well.

Having been wounded by Officer Gibson before he managed to fatally hit the Officer, the gunman was overwhelmed by Capitol officers soon thereafter.

I rise today to remember and honor the lives of these fallen officers, who tragically died in true service of public safety, democracy, and the United States of America.

While our beloved Capitol has fortunately not seen such a violent disregard for life since, it is important to remember that we are all united in the fragility and beauty of human life, and that it is easy to take for granted our basic safety in our day-to-day lives.

As President John F. Kennedy once said, “A man does what he must in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures, and that is the basis of all human mortality.”

The lives of officers Chestnut and Gibson exemplified and embodied this idea in the most sincere way possible.

They gave their lives in protection of ours, so that we may continue to effect positive change on our country.

In the immediate aftermath of the shooting, the reaction of the Capitol was one of sadness, shock, and outrage.

As we have said here before, however, “The worst thing we can do is cower in fear. We will not shut down the Capitol.”

It is this attitude of remembrance and respect without any trace of fear or cowardice that we must take from the tragic deaths of these officers.

As members of Congress, we must continue to remember the lives of the men who gave theirs for ours.

But we must also learn from them.

We must take with us the importance of continuing to stand for our country without fear or cowardice, as Officers Gibson and Chestnut once did for us.

Today, we pause to commemorate and remember the brave officers who passed away eighteen years ago.

Tomorrow, we take up the mantle that they once did for us.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE STERLING VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Sterling Volunteer Fire Company, which is celebrating its 50th year of service to the good citizens of the Sterling community this year. I would like to personally commend the courageous men and women who so selflessly volunteer themselves and put themselves in danger on behalf of neighbors, friends, and strangers, without asking anything in return. These brave citizens embody the very best of this nation’s values through their service to our community and their exemplary performance in the line of duty.

The Sterling Volunteer Fire Company has grown exponentially since its inception in 1966, which at the time was little more than an old barn on Holly Avenue housing a single tanker and two used pumbers. Within a short two years, this small institution had flourished, now settled into two larger locations: Station 11, which it shares with the Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad, as well as Station 18, also known as SVRS 25. Even more recently, the company expanded into Station 24 in 2013. This is a clear testament to the outstanding work which is conducted by these everyday heroes and they are deserving of recognition.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me immense pride to recognize such a fine group, and I sincerely hope that we all can live up to their tremendous example. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Sterling Volunteers. I wish them good luck and hope that they remain safe in the fulfillment of their future duties.

IN HONOR OF BRENT OFFENBERGER, LUKE OFFENBERGER, AND CHRIS ATWELL FOR THEIR RESCUE OF THREE NAVY HELICOPTER CREWMEMBERS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 1, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brent Offenberger, Luke Offenberger, and Chris Atwell for their heroic efforts in rescuing three U.S. Navy helicopter crew members who crashed into the James River during a routine training mission on June 14, 2016. All three men should be recognized for their selfless attitude and willingness to help those in need.

Brent Offenberger was fishing with his son, Luke, and father-in-law, Chris, when they saw a U.S. Navy MH-60S helicopter flying at low altitude near their boat. While it is not uncommon to see helicopters in the area, the men noticed the helicopter was having issues as it began to hover a mere ten feet above the surface, throwing water into the air. Soon after, the propeller hit a metal buoy and shattered into pieces. Immediately after the propeller hit