

participate in the Special Olympics program. Through successful experiences and athletic competition, Special Olympians gain confidence, build a positive self image, and greatly enhance their ability to contribute to society.

I thank Mr. GILCHREST for introducing House Concurrent Resolution 146, and I commend him and Mr. TRAFICANT for their leadership on this issue. I wholeheartedly support this resolution and urge its adoption.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I again join forces with the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] to urge an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, 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. GILCHREST] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 146.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR 1996 NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 147) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the 15th annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 147

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).

SECTION 1. USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE.

The National Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the fifteenth annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, on the Capitol grounds on May 15, 1996, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate may jointly designate, in order to honor the 155 law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 1995.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The event authorized to be conducted on the Capitol grounds under section 1 shall be free of admission charge to the public and arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress, under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The National Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

(a) STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT.—Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the National Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary are authorized to erect upon the Capitol grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment, as may be required for the event authorized to be con-

ducted on the Capitol grounds under section 1.

(b) ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.—The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board are authorized to make any such additional arrangements as may be required to carry out the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST].

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 147 would authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the 15th Annual Peace Officers' Memorial Service to be held on May 15, 1996. This year, as in past years, the U.S. Capitol Police will be the sponsoring law enforcement agency for this event. During the past year, 155 peace officers have lost their lives in the line of duty. This figure includes many of the dedicated Federal employees who lost their lives in the tragic bombing in Oklahoma City last April.

This year, it is expected that over 2,000 friends and family members of those who lost their lives last year will attend this event, and 15,000 peace officers will also participate.

This is a worthwhile endeavor, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all to join me in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 147 which, as the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] has stated, will authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officer's Memorial Service.

On May 15 of this year the Capitol Police will host law enforcement officials from around the Nation who will gather here to honor their fallen police officers. I would like to take this time to commend our Capitol Police. Many times they go unnoticed, and perhaps it is the lack of those headlines we do not read that are, maybe, the greatest testament to our own Capitol Police. I am proud of the Capitol Police's hosting this event. We should all support it.

In addition to the 155 officers killed in the line of duty in 1995, approximately, Mr. Speaker, 65,000 police officers are assaulted each year, with over 23,000 of our police officers sustaining injuries of some sort.

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Everybody is tragically aware, as pointed out by the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST], of the unfortunate terrorist act in Oklahoma, but very few people realize that the target of those terrorists was our law enforcement personnel, as well as mak-

ing a statement. It was a direct attack and assault on our law enforcement personnel.

I think it is absolutely fitting and proper that we join here and we allow the use of the Capitol Grounds, by an extension of the authority of Congress that vests that right within us and power within us, to our National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service. I believe that that purpose is most fitting.

I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] for the way he has dispatched his duties on this bill and others.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I have no further speakers, I urge an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] for his work on this resolution, for his work on the subcommittee. We have a truly bipartisan subcommittee that endeavors to do the work of the Nation, no matter how corny that might sound.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my opening statement, there will be over 15,000 police officers attending this memorial service. It is in dedication to the quiet courage of those law enforcement officers that have dedicated their lives to this great country. In that endeavor we pass this resolution.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I join Mr. TRAFICANT and Mr. GILCHREST in supporting use of the Capitol Grounds for the 15th anniversary of the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service. May 15 is the day designated by President Kennedy as the day to honor all men and women who have dedicated and sacrificed their lives in order to protect our lives.

I commend Mr. TRAFICANT for introducing House Concurrent Resolution 147, and for being a staunch supporter of this program. As we all know, the Capitol Plaza is used for the candlelight memorial service, which is the culmination of a series of events honoring peace officers who have been killed in the line of duty. The 1996 service will be hosted by the Capitol Hill Police Department.

Tragically, during 1995, 155 law enforcement officers were killed while on duty. The average age of those officers was 37 years old and they had served the public for 9 years. Four of them were women. It is fitting and commendable that we support the efforts of the Capitol Police and the 675,000 law enforcement officials now serving in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support House Concurrent Resolution 147, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 147.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 158) to recognize the Peace Corps on the occasion of its 35th anniversary and the Americans who have served as Peace Corps volunteers.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 158

Whereas the Peace Corps has become a powerful symbol of America's commitment to expand hope, create opportunity, and encourage development at the grass roots level in the developing world;

Whereas more than 140,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps volunteers in more than 125 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia, Eastern and Central Europe, and the Western Hemisphere since 1961, and have strengthened the ties of friendship and understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries;

Whereas Peace Corps volunteers have made significant and lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, business development, education, the environment, health, and youth development, and have improved the lives of individuals and communities around the world;

Whereas Peace Corps volunteers, enriched by their experiences overseas, have brought to their communities throughout the United States a deeper understanding of other cultures and traditions;

Whereas Peace Corps volunteers embody and represent many of America's most enduring values, such as service, commitment to the poor, and friendship among nations;

Whereas the Peace Corps continues to receive broad, bipartisan support in Congress and from the American people; and

Whereas March 1, 1996 will mark the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the achievements and contributions of the Peace Corps over the past 35 years be celebrated; that the dedication and sacrifice of Peace Corps volunteers be recognized and their continued contributions be acknowledged not only for their service in other countries but in their own communities; and that the President is requested to honor Peace Corps volunteers and reaffirm our Nation's commitment to international peace and understanding.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER].

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Joint Resolution 158 recognizes the Peace Corps and its volunteers on its 35th anniversary year. Mr. FARR and the five other original cosponsors of this resolution are all former Peace Corps volunteers now

serving their country here in the Congress. Their resolution recognizes the sacrifice and dedication of Peace Corps volunteers, both in their assigned countries and here at home after they return on the occasion of the Corps's 35th anniversary.

I will note that since the first volunteer stepped off the plane in 1961 at a little airport in Ghana, over 140,000 Americans have become Peace Corps veterans in the service of peace, understanding and development. Today, Peace Corps volunteers are older, more experienced and specialized but their mission is still the same: development and basic American values in the developing world at the grassroots level.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the distinguished chairman of the full committee.

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, we all can agree on the bipartisan strength of the Peace Corps in the 104th Congress. Founded under President Kennedy and its first Director, Sargent Shriver, the Peace Corps grew through the 1960's and 1970's but really came to the crossroads in the 1980's. I want to make a special note for the longest serving Peace Corps Director, Ms. Loret Ruppe, whose energy, drive, and dedication set the Peace Corps' goal that we still support today: 10,000 volunteers by the year 2000. Loret is now struggling with cancer but her mission and her impact on the Corps is still felt today. As Loret used to say, "Peace Corps volunteers are working today to help the African farmer and her husband * * *."

Last month, we debated a highly controversial State Department bill on the House floor. I think that one provision of that bill we could all support was the funding levels for the Peace Corps. The House conferees and especially former Peace Corps Director, Senator PAUL COVERDELL of Georgia, joined together to ensure funding for the Peace Corps, even in these tough budgetary times. Under its new Director, Mark Geran, I think this Congress is expecting a lot from the Peace Corps in its next 35 years.

I recommend this resolution to the House and urge its support.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER], the subcommittee chairman, and the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the full committee chairman, for bringing this resolution before the House. It is actually cosponsored by six Members of the House who are former Peace Corps volunteers: MIKE WARD, JIM WALSH, TONY HALL, CHRIS SHAYS, TOM PETRI, and SAM FARR.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California [Mr. FARR] who has come all the way from his district to speak on this.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as one of the six returned Peace Corps volunteers now serving in the House, and I rise in support of House Resolution 158, recognizing the Peace Corps' 35th anniversary.

Let me first take a minute to thank Chairman GILMAN and the Ranking Minority Member HAMILTON for bringing this measure to the floor. I also want to thank Mark Geran, who is the Director of the Peace Corps, who has been instrumental in the continuing success of the agency, as well as the other returned Peace Corps volunteers now serving in this country and serving in this Congress, my colleagues Representative TONY HALL of Ohio, Representative TOM PETRI, Representative MIKE WARD, Representative JIM WALSH, and Representative CHRIS SHAYS.

President Kennedy created this international service organization 35 years ago to promote international goodwill. During his powerful inaugural address, he challenged Americans with, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and many of them, including myself at that time, responded to that call and joined the Peace Corps in the early 1960's. The creation of the Peace Corps was part of this vision of his.

Today, there are currently 7,000 Americans working as Peace Corps volunteers. The average age in 1961, when President Kennedy made his call, was 22 years of age. Today, in 1996, the average age is 29 years old. Over 500 volunteers are over the age of 50. The educational experience of volunteers has grown; more volunteers with graduate degrees than ever before.

Over 140,000 returned volunteers have served in the Peace Corps in more than 125 countries, in Africa, Asia, Eastern and Central Europe. They have also served in the South Pacific and in Latin America.

The Peace Corps was formally established by Executive order on March 1, 1961. Volunteers were sent to Ghana, Colombia, and Tanzania, and over 850 volunteers were in the field by the end of the first year.

Soon volunteers teaching in schools were joined by those working in agriculture, health and nutrition, forestry, and fisheries. In the 1980's, the Peace Corps was refined and developed new initiatives in response to the special needs of the developing world.

In Lesotho, in Mali, and Niger, Peace Corps began the Africa Food Systems Initiative to assist farmers in need of innovative ways to increase food production. In the Caribbean, the Peace Corps has developed initiatives to stimulate job-creating small enterprises.

The Peace Corps has undertaken a lot of new initiatives. The Peace Corps has plans to send volunteers to South Africa in response to a request for assistance from President Nelson Mandela. The Peace Corps has also resumed its presence in Haiti following