

studying trauma; and, third, the development of new approaches and products for trauma prevention, a national issue, that will provide scientific, intellectual and financial benefits to the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the effort of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, in collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University, to pursue in the near future a partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to address the critically important issue of preventing bicycle accidents—especially those involving children. I am pleased that the committee favorably responded to the efforts of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University in urging the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to collaborate with institutes that are conducting human factors research relating to bicycle safety. I believe that the pioneering research to be undertaken by Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon responds to the committee's recommendation and will provide significant benefits to the administration's ongoing work in bicycle safety.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH OF FLORIDA, NY, CELEBRATES 101ST ANNIVERSARY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Florida, NY, for its 101st anniversary, St. Joseph's was established in 1895, and immediately became a landmark of the small village of Florida, where it has remained a hub of the community throughout the 20th century. St. Joseph's was conceived in the Polish tradition of Catholicism, and has continued in this tradition to the present day. Father William Torowski is currently the administrator of the congregation, and has served as an inspirational leader to his congregation and community throughout his tenure.

St. Joseph's has a long history of dedicated service to its community, including an elementary school, which has consisted of lay as well as nun instructors through the years. The Felician Sisters of Connecticut and the Sisters of Charity of the Bronx, NY, are among the convents who have contributed to the excellence of this educational institution throughout its history.

St. Joseph's has also been active in missionary work since its inception over a century ago. A mission in nearby Pine Island, NY, which has since become a separate entity, and St. Andrew Bobola in nearby Pelletts Island, NY have been a crucial part of St. Joseph's admirable efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to honor St. Joseph's for all that it has done for its community. St. Joseph's has distinguished itself as a provider of education and charity, as well as provider of its holy message. Its presence throughout the 20th century has been an inspiration to the residents of the area and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, we should remember that our houses of worship are vital to the identities of our Nation's communities, and we must not

forget our constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion, which allows congregations such as St. Joseph's to exist as the stabilizing force which draws the local communities of Nation together. St. Joseph's of Florida, NY, exemplifies this vital force in an admirable fashion, and I am proud to honor its 101st anniversary.

CHURCH ARSON PREVENTION ACT
OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 1996

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on June 18, 1996, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3525 by a rollcall vote of 422 to 0. Shortly thereafter, on June 26, 1996, the Senate approved an amended version of H.R. 3525, the provisions of which were arrived at through bipartisan negotiations between the House and Senate sponsors. The House later approved H.R. 3525, as amended by the Senate, and the President signed the bill into law on July 3, 1996.

Due to the celerity with which this legislation was adopted, and the fact that no House-Senate conference was required, there is no legislative history explaining the provisions of H.R. 3525 which were added after consideration of the measure by the House Judiciary Committee. The provisions of the bill as reported by the committee are explained in House Report 104-621. For this reason, I am inserting in the RECORD the following "Statement of Floor Managers Regarding H.R. 3525," which shall serve as additional legislative history for the bill. Senators FAIRCLOTH and KENNEDY will be inserting identical language in the Senate portion of the RECORD.

JOINT STATEMENT OF FLOOR MANAGERS REGARDING H.R. 3525, THE CHURCH ARSON PREVENTION ACT OF 1996

(By Congressmen Hyde and Conyers, and Senators Faircloth and Kennedy)

I. INTRODUCTION

Recently, the entire nation has watched in horror and disbelief as an epidemic of church arsons has gripped the nation. The wave of arsons, many in the South, and a large number directed at African American churches, is simply intolerable, and has provoked a strong outcry from Americans of all races and religious backgrounds.

Congress has responded swiftly and in a bipartisan fashion to this troubling spate of arsons. On May 21, 1996, the House Judiciary Committee held an oversight hearing focusing on the problem of church fires in the Southeast. Two days later, on May 23, Chairman Hyde and Ranking Member Conyers introduced H.R. 3525, the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996. H.R. 3525 was passed by the House of Representatives on June 18, 1996, by a vote of 422-0. On June 19, 1996, the Senate introduced a companion bill, S. 1890.

In the interests of responding swiftly to this pressing national problem, the Congressman Henry Hyde and Congressman John Conyers, the original authors of the bill in the House of Representatives, and Senator Lauch Faircloth and Senator Edward Kennedy, the original authors of the bill in the Senate, with the cooperation and assistance of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, have crafted a bipartisan bill that combines portions of

H.R. 3525, as passed on June 18, 1996 by the House of Representatives, and S. 1890, as introduced in the Senate on June 19, 1996. On June 26, 1996, an amendment in the form of substitute to H.R. 3525 was introduced in the Senate, and passed by a 98-0 vote. This substitute embodies the agreement that was reached between House and the Senate, on a bipartisan basis. The House of Representatives, by unanimous consent, took up and passed H.R. 3525 as amended on June 27, 1996.

This Joint Statement of Floor Managers is in lieu of a Conference report and outlines the legislative history of H.R. 3525.

II. SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of the legislation is to address the growing national problem of destruction and desecration of places of religious worship. The legislation contains five different components.

1. *Amendment of Criminal Statute Relating to Church Arson*

Section three of the bill amends section 247 of Title 18, United States Code, to eliminate unnecessary and onerous jurisdictional obstacles, and conform the penalties and statute of limitation with those under the general federal arson statute, Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(i). Section two contains the Congressional findings that establish Congress' authority to amend section 247.

2. *Authorization for Loan Guarantees*

Section four gives authority to the Department of Housing and Urban Development to use up to \$5,000,000 from an existing fund to extend loan guarantees to financial institutions who make loans to organizations defined in Title 26, Section 501(c)(3), United States Code, that have been damaged as a result of acts of arson or terrorism, as certified by procedures to be established by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

3. *Assistance for Victims Who Sustain Injury*

Section five amends Section 1403(d)(3) of the Victim of Crime Act to provide that individuals who suffer death or personal injury in connection with a violation described in Title 18, United States Code, Section 247, are eligible to apply for financial assistance under the Victims of Crime Act.

4. *Authorization of Funds for the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Justice*

Section six authorizes funds to the Department of Justice, including the Community Relations Service, and the Department of the Treasury to hire additional personnel to investigate, prevent and respond to possible violations of title 18, United States Code, Sections 247 and 844(i). This provision is not intended to alter, expand or restrict the respective jurisdictions or authority of the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Bureau of Investigation relating to the investigation of suspicious fires at places of religious worship.

5. *Reauthorization of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act*

Section seven reauthorizes the Hate Crimes Statistics Act through 2002.

6. *Sense of the Congress*

Section eight embodies the sense of the Congress commending those individuals and entities that have responded to the church arson crisis with enormous generosity. The Congress encourages the private sector to continue these efforts, so that the rebuilding process will occur with maximum possible participation from the private sector.

III. AMENDMENT TO TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 247

Section 3 of H.R. 3525, as passed by the Senate and the House, amends section 247 in a number of ways.