

we realize how much we owe to police officers all across this country.

So I think by using the Rotunda to honor these fallen heroes we are honoring not only the specific acts of courage that have saved so many other Americans and we are not only honoring them because of the fact that this was their building and they were protecting it, we also honor them, all fallen law enforcement heroes who have died defending the American people from evil.

So my heart goes out to the families of John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut, and particularly those young kids that have lost a father. We have lost two wonderful heroes who have saved so many from harm. We have lost two heroes who were dedicated husbands and wonderful fathers, and I urge all my colleagues and the American people in general to pray for these families as they try to cope with this great loss.

Mr. Speaker, I will just add at the end, if people around this country want to donate to the memorial fund created by this resolution, they can send their contributions to the United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund, United States Capitol, Washington, D.C., 20515.

Let me also add, if the gentleman will further yield, something that really touched me just a while ago. One of the pages came up to me and handed me this, and I want to put it in the RECORD, from the pages that serve here in the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, the Pages would like to say that "We salute these two fallen heroes who gave their lives for ours. In the line of duty, these men stood strong and brave for their country. For that, we all owe a great debt of gratitude.

"We are all aware of their courageous sacrifice, and we hold these officers deep in our hearts. God bless their families, and God bless America."

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding, and I include for the RECORD the tribute by our Pages.

FROM THE PAGES OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

We salute these two fallen heroes who gave their lives for ours. In the line of duty, these men stood strong and brave for their country. For that, we all owe a great debt of gratitude.

We are all aware of their courageous sacrifice, and we hold these officers deep in our hearts. God bless their families, and God bless America.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, under my reservation, I sadly join the majority whip, whose comments are both personal but express as well the sentiments of his colleagues.

Over 14,622 law enforcement officers have lost their lives in the history of our country. The first one lost his life in 1794. Since that time, we have asked some of our fellow citizens to take upon themselves the responsibility and the risk of defending freedom here at home.

When I began the Pledge of Allegiance, I said that Officer Chestnut and

Detective Gibson died defending the principles for which it stands. That was literally and figuratively true. Every morning those whom we ask to bear the responsibility of maintaining order in a civil society, without which we would not have freedom and justice and the rule of law, they put on their uniform or their plain clothes and they put on a badge, and most of them attach a gun to their hip or to their shoulder. They and their families know that daily they risk their lives. In this instance, of course, because no previous Capitol police officer has lost his or her life in a confrontation, that risk seemed remote.

Mr. Speaker, Friday, July 24 reminds us once again that the risk is always present for those we ask to defend this free society. The vagaries of life are such that there are those, either demented or angry or for whatever reasons, take onto themselves the opportunity to commit violence.

In this instance, Officer Chestnut, Detective Gibson and, indeed, the hundreds of Capitol police officers who responded to this crisis, gave their lives that many others might be safe and, more importantly, to indicate that the Capitol of the United States, Freedom's House, if you will, will, in fact, be accessible, but it will also be protected.

Our community on this Hill is a grief-stricken community, and it is a reflection of a country that shares that grief. I have had the opportunity of talking to family members of these officers. I and so many others on this floor know the personal grief that they are experiencing. They have lost a loved one. They have lost a friend. They have lost a dad or brother or an uncle or a friend and a neighbor. They have a very personal grief.

But our country has a collective grief, and it is appropriate that we honor these men, both as individual American heroes, but as well, as the majority whip has indicated, as two members of a group of some 700,000 Americans who daily leave their homes and take to their duties to defend America's principles, to defend Americans, to defend an orderly society.

These men and women of law enforcement, like those we ask to join the Armed Services and defend freedom abroad, are equally responsible for us being able to meet in this body in a society that honors the peaceful resolution of disputes. We are the land of the free because we are the home of the brave. This resolution honors two of those brave who ensure that this will be, in fact, the land of the free.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1702

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ARMEY) at 5 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.)

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DETECTIVE JOHN MICHAEL GIBSON AND PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JACOB JOSEPH CHESTNUT OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE FOR THEIR SELFLESS ACTS OF HEROISM AT THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL ON JULY 24, 1998

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I offer a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 311) honoring the memory of Detective John Michael Gibson and Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police for their selfless acts of heroism at the United States Capitol on July 24, 1998, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 311

Whereas the Capitol is the people's house, and, as such, it has always been and will remain open to the public;

Whereas millions of people visit the Capitol each year to observe and study the workings of the democratic process;

Whereas the Capitol is the most recognizable symbol of liberty and democracy throughout the world and those who guard the Capitol guard our freedom;

Whereas Private First Class Jacob "J.J." Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson sacrificed their lives to protect the lives of hundreds of tourists, staff, and Members of Congress;

Whereas if not for the quick and courageous action of those officers, many innocent people would likely have been injured or killed;

Whereas through their selfless acts, Detective Gibson and Private First Class Chestnut underscored the courage, honor, and dedication shown daily by every member of the United States Capitol Police and every law enforcement officer;

Whereas Private First Class Chestnut, a Vietnam veteran who spent 20 years in the Air Force, was an 18-year veteran of the Capitol Police, and was married to Wen Ling and had five children, Joseph, Janece, Janet, Karen and William;

Whereas Detective Gibson, assigned as Rep. Tom DeLay's bodyguard for the last