

this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. I rise today to join my fellow Members of Congress to honor the memory of John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut, who died defending not only our lives but democracy itself.

These men were our friends, like so many Capitol Hill police officers who serve and protect us day after day, Congress after Congress, decade after decade. They do so with a quiet dedication and an obvious devotion. Whether helping a Member of Congress or any of the millions of visitors who come to Capitol Hill every year, Capitol Hill police play a vital role in assuring that American democracy works. They do so with thousands of acts of devotion and dedication to their duty. We know they may have to perform the ultimate act of devotion, but we also pray that they never do.

John Gibson and Jacob Chestnut made the supreme sacrifice, and we know they did so without hesitation. They were our friends, our protectors, and they laid down their lives, not only for us, but for the freedom that this institution represents.

#### CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OFFICER CHESTNUT AND SPECIAL AGENT GIBSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as the Nation and the Capitol Hill family and, of course, the families of Special Agent Gibson and Officer Chestnut deal with this extraordinary tragedy, we, of course, extend our condolences to the immediate family members and their dear friends, including all of our friends here on Capitol Hill who have been so impacted by this.

One cannot help but think of what it is we can learn from this, and what it is that this has taught us. Of course, we have all, over the past few days, expressed greater appreciation for those men and women who are on the front line as Capitol Hill police officers than we have ever have.

I have always prided myself on being friendly and talking with them, but there have been more than a few occasions where I have been in a hurry and rushed by. Over the weekend and yesterday and today, of course, like all of my colleagues, we have stopped and taken a moment to express our appreciation. We all know how important gratitude is.

We also must remember, as we have just had the opportunity to walk by the two caskets in the great rotunda, and in about 45 minutes we will be moving into the Rotunda for this service, but we have to remember that this experience shows us the magnitude of man's humanity to man. We know it is, from this experience, our deeds that make us great, and while we have been talking, as we do so well here, we know that our words are important, but it is our deeds that will be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, these two men exemplify the simple, everyday greatness of self-sacrifice. I join in extending condolences to the Gibson and Chestnut families, and wish them God speed.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO OFFICER JACOB JOSEPH CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, without excessive repetition, I would like to join my colleagues in the House to pay tribute to Officer Jacob Joseph Chestnut and Detective John Gibson, who gave their lives dutifully protecting this hallowed institution.

These two heroes were great points of light for all Americans. It is important that we all come together across party lines and across all other differences to pay homage to these two heroes. As we pay tribute to the dead, let us also honor the other police and protective forces and other staff members whose reverence for this institution is no less than and sometimes even greater than the reverence of elected members.

In paying tribute to our defenders, we reaffirm the fact that this House of Representatives and the democratic process, this government, belongs to all of the people. We reaffirm the fact that we are the guardians of a sacred process that takes place within the halls of this Capitol.

This democratic process cannot survive without institutional support. This process and the institution have become inseparable. This is the great democratic process that guarantees our freedom and guards our national progress.

It is the process that inspired the bravery and the courage on the beaches of Normandy. It is the same process that applauded and rewarded the returning World War II heroes with more than merely marches and medals.

This Congress, this institution, passed the G.I. Bill, that offered unprecedented educational opportunities to every veteran. This is the democratic process and the institution that followed the leadership of the assassinated President, Abraham Lincoln, and passed the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments, ending slavery and guaranteeing equal treatment and the right to vote.

This is the process and the institution that, while mourning the death of John F. Kennedy, accepted the wise and forceful guidance of President Lyndon Johnson in the passage of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.

This is a sacred place and a sacred process. They must at all times be protected and defended. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson instinctively understood the nature of our mission. The workings of this institution are more complex than the wiring or gadgets of any nuclear submarine. The impact of

the results of what we conclude here has more explosive power and long range consequences than any space rocket ever fired at NASA.

To keep this institution relevant and capable of meeting the challenges of our rapidly changing and demanding world, we need the elevator operators, the cleaning staff, the receptionists, the analysts, the secretaries, the directors, chiefs of staff, coordinators, counsel, information specialists, administrative assistants, and yes, we need the detectives and the police. All are vitally necessary. A complicated world demands an intricate governmental infrastructure.

The democratic process within this infrastructure must be protected because the twin monsters of insanity and violent savagery are always scratching out there at the door. In the last 50 years, the bullets of assassins have dramatically altered history in America. Some victims were President John F. Kennedy; Martin Luther King, Junior; Robert Kennedy; and the almost-murdered President Ronald Reagan.

Against the twin monsters of insanity and savagery, we must do more than merely mourn the loss of our heroes. Most Americans can only grieve with the families of J. J. Chestnut and John Gibson. We 435 Members of Congress can do much more.

In paying tributes to these heroes, we Members of Congress should seek a solidarity across party lines and beyond the usual philosophical and ideological agendas. In defense of this great institution and to protect all vulnerable Americans, we must unite and act as one. Let this be a time of new reflections, new insights, and new resolve to find ways to disarm the proliferating number of insane and savage assassins.

The second amendment was designed to make us safe from tyranny, to bolster our sense of security. No well-regulated militia should allow the rampant and random distribution of firearms among the populace.

In the name of our Capitol heroes, Officer Jacob Joseph Chestnut and Detective John Gibson, and for the sake of the families of all similar victims, let us resolve, as powerful decision-makers, as Members of Congress, let us resolve to end the escalating terror of handguns in America.

#### ON THE DEATHS OF OFFICER JACOB CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, we gather today to honor two men in a way that has been reserved for Presidents and military heroes. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we would honor these two slain Capitol Police officers as only 26 other Americans have been recognized.