

all things; meaning that when the Attorney General, the Justice Department, and the intelligence communities of our government were able to mount a case against terrorists, so appropriate in view of the events of the past week, that they could bring in people with special information under what was called the "S" visa, a special program to permit aliens to come in for the specific purpose of providing information and testifying, as it were, in these cases constructed by our Justice Department against terrorists.

That authority has run out, and it ran out almost immediately after the events took place in the Pentagon and in New York. So we have to reinstate it as fast as possible. That is why we are here tonight, because now it becomes even more urgent that we be in a position to be able to authorize the Attorney General to continue building the cases against these new terrorists now and others yet to come, we hope not, which we will do everything we can to prevent, but we must reinstate the authority for these special visas, these "S" visas that would permit this extra arm of law enforcement to work its will.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Continuing to reserve my reservation of objection, Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for bringing this important initiative to the floor of the House tonight, particularly with the great need that we have. It is obvious that we are in a time deep of sorrow.

And Congress continues and will continue to seek all possible avenues which would help provide assistance to the American public in our time of need.

This legislation, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS), the chairman has indicated, is appropriate as the U.S. attorney and the Attorney General are looking to bring solution to the heinous acts that occurred this week.

The Violent Crime Control Act of 1994 created the "S" nonimmigrant visa classification. We need to restore this visa which expired on September 12, 2001. Without this legislation, law enforcement will not be able to bring in foreign nationals who may be able to provide their needed information. It is well known that the search for the perpetrators of the heinous acts that occurred on September 11, 2001, is an international search.

Right now, the number of visas to bring in individuals are limited, 200 visas are for those who provide critical information about crimes. Fifty visas are specifically devoted to those who can provide critical information about terrorism. An application for the "S" visa must be made by a Federal, State or local law enforcement agency or by a court, and once an individual enters on an "S" visa, he or she is admitted for the purpose of cooperating with law enforcement.

This is crucial inasmuch as our Attorney General and all of the addi-

tional officials are looking to bring some resolution, great resolution to this enormous tragedy. These visas are particularly necessary because many of these people are in danger in their home countries after they have cooperated with an investigation or testified in a criminal proceeding.

There is much that this Nation has to do to, ultimately, in our future to bring closure to the terrible loss of life. In order to do this expeditiously, we need the insight of these individuals around the world who will come and testify and bring evidence so that we can put an end to these evil acts.

This legislation, I believe, is important, and so the objection that I have expressed is one that I am willingly now prepared to withdraw and ask that my colleagues do support this legislation so that we can move expeditiously in what we need to do to solve the terrible acts that occurred this week.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR ADMINISTRATION OF "S" VISA NONIMMIGRANTS.

Section 214(k) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(k)) is amended—

- (1) by striking (2);
- (2) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), respectively; and
- (3) in paragraph (4)(E) (as redesignated), by striking "paragraph (4)" and inserting "paragraph (3)".

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1424, the Senate bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

TERRORIST VICTIMS FLAG MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H.Res. 239), providing Capitol-flown flags to each surviving victim, and the family of each deceased victim, of the terrorist attacks which occurred on September 11, 2001, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) for an explanation of the resolution.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is here on behalf of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the ranking member of the Committee on House Administration, and myself.

This resolution would authorize funds for the provisions of flags that have been flown over the great Capitol to the surviving victims and the families of those who lost their lives in the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

Pursuant to this resolution, those who were injured or lost a loved one in these hideous attacks would be entitled to receive, at no cost, the United States flag. I believe all Members will agree that provisions of the flag, what we believe in the flag as a symbol of our country and to give that is the least we can do to show our support for those tragically affected by these barbaric acts.

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Mr. Speaker, as we stand here tonight, behind you is our flag, which is the greatest symbol of our country. And as we have the energetic give and take of public debate on the floor of this Chamber to do our duty, to represent freedom, to represent our constituents and our very American way of life, we recognize, I know, that we could not be here to have our debates and our agreements and our disagreements if it were not for the veterans of our country, who from the beginning of our revolution up through today, as our military stands ready always, as our troops are overseas in situations that put them in harm's way, and we always know through all of this that the colors do not run on that flag and neither have our veterans.

I mention the veterans because they are so important to us. Mr. Speaker, I believe also we should mention that we realize that somewhere in this tragic amount of individuals who have lost their lives, there are veterans; but we also recognize in fact that there are nonveterans that have also in fact lost their lives. And it is fitting that those targeted, whether veterans or nonveterans, should receive in tribute the symbol of our great Nation, the American flag, that has been flown across the United States Capitol, the structure that houses our great institutions of democracy.

Tragically, the victims of this savage attack are numerous. Though there are many victims, each should be honored. Every single one of them. This resolution will permit Members to show that they, this Congress, and our country mourn the loss deeply of our fellow citizens and we are in solidarity with those that have had the ultimate price