

of Indian army officials and innocent civilians.

This leads me to believe that there is very little possibility that infiltration by Islamic militants at the Kashmir line of control has subsided, even though President Musharraf of Pakistan pledged that infiltration would decrease several months ago. Mr. Speaker, increased cross-border activity, augmented by targeted attacks against those running in the elections, and President Musharraf's calling the elections a sham, are cause for serious alarm.

Just yesterday, it was reported that a candidate, a Kashmiri state government minister, along with seven others, was killed by militants. This was the second murder of a candidate in less than a week and is the most recent addition to a string of murders by militants that have killed 40 political workers in the past several weeks. Militants have vowed to escalate violence prior to the election in an effort to disrupt the elections, and they go so far as to say that they will attempt to kill anyone who participates.

Mr. Speaker, unless there is a clear directive from the Pakistani President to the militants to end this violence surrounding the elections, and an acknowledgment from President Musharraf that these elections are not to be interfered with, and that they should proceed free and fair, it is unclear to me what type of outcome there will be between now and the conclusion of the elections. The elections go, Mr. Speaker, from September 16 until sometime in October.

I would urge President Musharraf of Pakistan to take a leadership role and to ensure India that the elections can take place without any threat of violence. I urge the Bush administration to put more pressure on Musharraf to end cross-border infiltration and not condone interference at the polls in Kashmir.

Mr. Speaker, I mention that when the Indian external minister, Mr. Sinha, was here, he spoke to our Secretary of State, Mr. Powell, and asked him to do whatever he could to put pressure on Musharraf to make sure that the elections in Kashmir are not interfered with.

But, of course, the concern is whether Musharraf is going to carry through. He has to be made to uphold his commitments to ending terrorism, and the first step he can take is to do everything in his power to ensure that cross-border terrorism into Kashmir ceases and that the elections in Kashmir take place freely and fairly, without the threat of violence to the candidates or Kashmiri voters.

A TRIBUTE TO CONNELLY SPRINGS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, let me just say, nestled halfway between Raleigh and Asheville in North Carolina is a little town called Connelly Springs. It is a small town built around an old stagecoach stop which now serves railroad passengers.

Named for its healthful spring waters, Connelly Springs was incorporated in 1920; but due to taxes, licenses, fines, and other onerous government impositions, residents decided to repeal the town charter in 1933.

As time passed, residents needed a water supply system as local wells became less productive. Residential roads needed paving, and the State only paved highways. To address these community needs, a group of citizens petitioned the State legislative bodies to allow a vote on reincorporation; and in 1989, 266 out of the 400 town voters approved the effort.

Amazingly, the first government decided a nickel per hundred dollar property tax would cover the cost of government. City offices were established in the old filling station with a volunteer clerk to handle the details. In addition, six volunteer council members would set town policy.

The council did an outstanding job meeting the community's needs. When two larger towns on either side of Connelly Springs decided to run a large water line connecting those two, the town of Connelly Springs' council realized the lines would pass near the northern boundary of the new town. They decided to go into the deal for \$200,000 paid over 20 years.

The plan worked beautifully. With several backhoes and other equipment to aid in the installation, Connelly Springs installed the water lines and became the first North Carolina self-help program member whose local residents provided the time and the resources to install their own water lines.

With the aid from their Rensselaerville Institute and the Appalachian Regional Commission, a \$60,000 loan from the Ford Foundation, and local funds, the town reached the necessary projected cost of \$282,000.

Three years ago, I shoveled a little dirt to prepare the land for a new town hall. This September 7, I helped cut the ribbon to open the finished town hall. The upper floors contain offices and the council chamber, and the lower floor will be a community center for all local groups to use whenever they need it.

We ate hot dogs and hamburgers to celebrate the grand opening. It is all paid for, and they have money in the bank. In all my life, I have never seen a more dedicated group of citizens who manage their efforts and money so carefully. I only wish I had some of that dedication in Raleigh, North Carolina, and also in Washington, D.C.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL STAFF AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday our Nation and this House paid a fitting tribute to those who lost their lives on September 11, to the heroic rescuers, and to their families.

Today, I would like to take just a moment to honor another group of people who serve this Nation in a less dramatic way, but who are heroes in their own right and in their own quiet ways.

Last year, just 1 day after our Nation came under attack, and this very building was among the targets, the men and women who work here in this building, in our offices and in countless other government offices throughout this land, came right back in to work to serve this great Nation. When they came in to work on that September 12 morning, they knew then and they have known each and every day since then that they work in a potential target.

Scarcely a month later, they then faced a new challenge when anthrax entered our buildings, and for some of our staff, entered their bodies. The Capitol Police, the janitors and maintenance workers, the grounds crews, the people who serve food, the secretaries, the Parliamentarians, the clerks, the young pages, our legislative and our committee staff, our field and case-workers, and all the other dedicated and courageous people who make this place and our government run all deserve our thanks and our praise.

With tears in their eyes, with sadness and with fear in their hearts, but with indomitable courage they came right back to work to serve this country we all love.

A year has passed now, and the immediate danger may have been diminished; but it remains in our awareness. Still, our staffs and the rest of the employees come to work, and in doing so, they serve our country.

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In these times, this takes courage. So, and for that courage, I am grateful and this country is deeply fortunate.

HONORING OFFICER CRYSTAL D. SHEFFIELD

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to pay tribute and honor Crystal D. Sheffield, a Baltimore City police officer who was killed in the line of duty while coming to the aid of a fellow officer on August 21, 2002. She was the city's first female officer ever to die in the line of duty.

Following a family tradition of public service, Officer Sheffield became a