

This measure is a completely bipartisan product. With the exception of some technical updates, it is essentially the same legislation that the House has overwhelmingly approved in two previous Congresses. This time, we hope the other body will act, which it has failed to do in the past. But we need to get the process moving now, to get these much needed procedures in place.

I strongly urge approval of this well crafted bipartisan legislation.

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 874.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the following bills: H.R. 874, H.R. 866, H. Con. Res. 53 and H. Con. Res. 96.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1130

#### TERMINATION OF EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS AND POLICIES OF UNITA AND REVOCATION OF RELATED EXECUTIVE ORDERS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-69)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622, I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "Order"), that terminates the national emergency described and declared in Executive Order 12865 of September 26, 1993, with respect to the actions and policies of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and revokes that order, Executive Order 13069 of December 12, 1997, and

Executive Order 13098 of August 18, 1998.

The Order will have the effect of lifting the sanctions imposed on UNITA in Executive Orders 12865, 13069, and 13098. These trade and financial sanctions were imposed to support international efforts to force UNITA to abandon armed conflict and return to the peace process outlined in the Lusaka Protocol, as reflected in United Nations Security Council Resolutions 864 (1993), 1127 (1997), and 1173 (1998).

The death of UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi in February 2002 enabled the Angolan government and UNITA to sign the Luena Memorandum of Understanding on April 4, 2002. This agreement established an immediate ceasefire and called for UNITA's return to the peace process laid out in the 1994 Lusaka Protocol. In accordance therewith, UNITA quartered all its military personnel in established reception areas and handed its remaining arms over to the Angolan government. In September 2002, the Angolan government and UNITA reestablished the Lusaka Protocol's Joint Commission to resolve outstanding political issues. On November 21, 2002, the Angolan government and UNITA declared the provisions of the Lusaka Protocol fully implemented and called for the lifting of sanctions on UNITA imposed by the United Nations Security Council.

With the successful implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and the demilitarization of UNITA, the circumstances that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 26, 1993, have been resolved. The actions and policies of UNITA no longer pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1448 (2002) lifted the measures imposed pursuant to prior U.N. Security Council resolutions related to UNITA. The continuation of sanctions imposed by Executive Orders 12865, 13069, and 13098 would have a prejudicial effect on the development of UNITA as an opposition political party, and therefore, on democratization in Angola. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to terminate the national emergency with respect to UNITA and to lift the sanctions that have been used to apply economic pressure on UNITA.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued. This Order is effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on May 7, 2003.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 6, 2003.

#### EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE NATION

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 213) expressing the

sense of the House of Representatives that public service employees should be commended for their dedication and service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 213

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to honor and celebrate the commitment of individuals who meet the needs of the Nation through work at all levels of government;

Whereas over 20,000,000 men and women work in government service in every city, county, and State across the Nation and in hundreds of locations abroad;

Whereas Federal, State, and local officials perform essential services that the Nation relies upon every day;

Whereas the United States is a great and prosperous nation, and public service employees have contributed significantly to its greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the Nation benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of these highly trained individuals;

Whereas public service employees—

(1) help the Nation recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks,

(2) fight fires and crime,

(3) deliver the mail,

(4) teach and work in our public schools,

(5) deliver Social Security and Medicare benefits,

(6) fight disease and promote better health,

(7) protect the environment and our national parks,

(8) defend and secure critical infrastructure,

(9) improve and secure transportation and the quality and safety of our food and water,

(10) build and maintain our roads and bridges,

(11) provide vital strategic and support functions to our military personnel,

(12) keep the Nation's economy stable,

(13) defend our freedom, and

(14) advance our Nation's interests around the world;

Whereas public service employees at the Federal, State, and local level are our first line of defense in maintaining homeland security;

Whereas public service employees at every level of government are hardworking individuals who are committed to doing a good job, regardless of the circumstances;

Whereas Federal, State, and local government employees have risen to the occasion and demonstrated professionalism, dedication, and courage while fighting the war against terrorism;

Whereas the men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as those Federal employees who provide support for their efforts, contribute greatly to the security of the Nation and of the world;

Whereas May 5 through 11, 2003, has been designated Public Service Recognition Week to honor America's Federal, State, and local government employees; and

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week will be celebrated through job fairs, student activities, and agency exhibits: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends America's Federal, State, and local government employees for their outstanding contributions to our country;

(2) salutes this Nation's public service employees for their unwavering dedication and spirit;

(3) honors those public service employees who have laid down their lives in service to this Nation;

(4) calls upon a new generation of workers to consider a career in public service; and

(5) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at all levels of government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), my distinguished colleague and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Reorganization, has introduced House Resolution 213, and I am pleased to join with him today in support. This legislation expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that public service employees should be commended for their dedication and service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of all my colleagues in expressing the House's tremendous gratitude and appreciation for their fine men and women who serve our Nation as government employees. Truly no profession is more critical to our Nation's basic operation than the public service.

This is a very important week that offers the more than 20 million public employees a chance to educate all Americans about the countless ways in which government makes life better for all of us, from our Nation's postal employees who deliver the mail to our educators who teach our children and from our law enforcement officials who protect us to our emergency responders who quickly and thoroughly react to disasters. Government employees serve each and every American in countless capacities each day. Their essential sacrifices comprise the backbone of American society.

Today, this House salutes those men and women who work hard every day to make America great. In addition, I have letters from both the President and the Secretary of the Department of Defense expressing their appreciation for the work of civil servants and I will include them in the RECORD at this point.

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
Washington, April 4, 2003.

I send greetings to those celebrating Public Service Recognition Week.

Public service is vital to the American character. Americans realize that giving something back to our communities strengthens our country and fulfills our obligation to serve a greater cause. Our Nation

is deeply indebted to the men and women who devote themselves to public service through their careers.

Every day across America, government employees at the Federal, State, and local levels carry out countless responsibilities that help protect our homeland, maintain critical services, ensure economic growth, and strengthen our national security. With the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, more than 170,000 dedicated public servants are now tasked with the overriding mission of protecting their fellow Americans from terrorism. These individuals serve our citizens and help make our government more efficient and effective.

Over the last two years, my Administration has taken significant action to encourage public service and civic engagement. Americans have responded with an outpouring of kindness and volunteer service that is transforming our Nation, one heart, one soul at a time. Through the USA Freedom Corps, we continue to mobilize our citizens and provide opportunities for individuals to improve their communities by serving in local schools, libraries, police and fire departments, places of worship, and hospitals. We are grateful for these dedicated citizens and for all public servants who touch lives, inspire others, and help us realize the promise and potential of our great Nation.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a wonderful week.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,

THE PENTAGON,

Washington, DC, February 26, 2002.

Subject: Public Service Recognition Week—2002.

Since the September 11th attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Centers, Americans have had fresh reminders of the importance of public service. Many public servants sacrificed their lives on that day and since in the war on terrorism. Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) provides an opportunity to highlight the value of public service and a time to honor the accomplishments of the people, both civilians and military, who serve America at all levels of government.

This year, the week of May 6–12, 2002, has been set aside as Public Service Recognition Week. Public observances are planned Nationwide and large-scale displays depicting missions of most Executive Branch agencies will be exhibited on the national Mall in Washington, D.C. The Military Departments and many key Defense Agencies plan to participate.

We are proud of the role played by the Defense Department and are delighted to showcase our national security responsibility.

DONALD RUMSFELD.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 213 rightly honors public service employees for their essential service to our great Nation. I hope this resolution will help to encourage a new generation of young Americans to consider entering into a noble career in the public service, and for these reasons I urge all Members to support the adoption of this important resolution.

Again, I thank my distinguished colleague from Illinois for introducing the measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), the chairman, and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member, for not only cosponsoring this resolution but also for expediting its movement to the floor. I also want to thank the Speaker, Speaker's office, and I want to thank the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) for the work that she does on the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Reorganization but also in helping to make sure that this legislation reached the floor in time for its presentation today. I am pleased to join with the gentleman from Pennsylvania and I appreciate his remarks.

Public Service Recognition Week, which has been celebrated the first Monday through Sunday in May since 1985, is an opportunity for us to honor and celebrate the commitment of government employees. Public Service Recognition Week offers all Americans, especially young people, the opportunity to learn and get excited about a career in public service. It also provides the opportunity to thank those who serve us daily for their efforts.

I believe that public service should be valued and respected by all Americans. When we think of public service, we think of people in the Armed Services who protect us, people in law enforcement, people who help the Nation recover from natural disasters, who fight fires and crime, deliver the mail, teach and work in our public schools, deliver Social Security and Medicare benefits, fight disease and promote better health, protect the environment and our national parks, defend and secure critical infrastructure, improve and secure transportation and the quality of safety of our food and water, build and maintain our roads and bridges, provide vital strategic and support functions to our military personnel, keep the Nation's economy stable, defend the freedom and advance the Nation's interests around the world.

There has been some conversation lately about interests in public service declining, and I would hope that as young people decide upon their careers, as they decide what it is that they would like to do that they would take a good look at the opportunity to serve not only themselves but to also serve their fellow citizens. So I would encourage them to look at public careers as a way of leading meaningful and productive lives. It is a great opportunity to be of service.

I belong to an organization that says he who would be first of all would be servant of all, and when we serve the public we are at the peak of service.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she might consume to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), who herself has a tremendous record of public service in this country.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman not only for yielding but for his very astute service as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Reorganization and his leadership on that subcommittee and on the Committee on Government Reform.

I also want to thank my good friends the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), the chairman, and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member, for bringing this resolution forward, but Mr. Speaker, I am sure when they originally decided to bring it forward they did not have in mind what is about to transpire in the Committee on Government Reform.

How perfectly ironic that we would be celebrating Public Service Recognition Week this week to honor Federal employees when tomorrow the Committee on Government Reform is about to mark up a bill that would strip one-third of the Federal workforce of essentially all of their civil service and collective bargaining rights. Let us have a big celebration for Public Service Week.

This bill that is before us, on not a fast track but on a jet plane for reasons that have yet to be revealed to us because we have not been given a reason for the rush, goes well beyond the homeland security bill that was so terribly controversial in this House and in the Senate, and let me document what I am saying.

The bill that will be before us tomorrow sweeps away most of the rights of the civilian employees of the Department of Defense. Pay for performance would immediately come into now the entire workforce, but no system for measuring performance is in place, according to the GAO, which has said slow this train down.

The Department of Defense employees would be exempt from these executive bargaining rights that are applicable to other agencies.

□ 1145

Mr. Speaker, they are already exempt because the employee representatives testified that they had not been consulted, they simply were called in and told what was going to happen. Consultation as is now required under the law has not taken place. They are already exempt from the collective bargaining rights of the rest of the government.

No appeal or due process rights when you are suspended or demoted, no right to file a sex or race discrimination complaint before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I am a former Chair of that commission, and the notion that the Congress would ever exempt its own workforce from race and sex discrimination claims is almost unbelievable, but that is what this bill does.

For reductions in workforce, there would be no need to base them on length of service or on efficiency while you were on the job or on performance.

What does that leave, Mr. Speaker? It does leave race and sex since an employee cannot file a complaint at the EEOC. One could file a complaint with their agency, but we know what that means. AT&T has discriminated against me; I will file with AT&T. DOD has discriminated against me; and I will file with DOD, and no right for an independent review of what is found. That is what this bill would do, and a lot more that I do not have time to explain.

Worse, just as we see homeland security spread now to DOD, they mean to spread what has happened in DOD to the rest of the workforce. Except as it spread from homeland security, it got worse than it was in homeland security. So what is the rest of the workforce to expect now?

I want to make it clear that many of us on the Committee on Government Reform were relieved to hear that DOD was finally going to reform itself, particularly after 9/11. Many of us believed that DOD needed a lot of reform before 9/11; but after 9/11, it is imperative and indispensable. The notion that reform means sweeping away the rights of the employees is an oxymoron. There may be greater efficiencies; I believe there are with respect to all of these matters. But the notion of waiving them or sweeping them away in a couple of weeks with no scrutiny is simply unthinkable.

The bill stunned the Committee on Government Reform on both sides of the aisle. It stunned even the Committee on Armed Services, but they are under huge pressure to pass this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have come to the floor of course to congratulate the employees who have shown how important they are to us, particularly since 9/11 made us understand what perhaps we should have understood all along, but it will not do to celebrate their service while sweeping away their rights.

I implore every Member of the House because most Members have civil servants in their districts to closely look at this bill and help us slow down the jet plane that is flying away with the rights of Federal employees even as we celebrate their service this week.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER).

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all of the hard work of civil servants during the Public Service Recognition Week.

As a former Baltimore County executive, I had an opportunity to work directly with men and women who serve on the local government level. Their commitment to excellence continues to be a great source of inspiration. Public service employees have contributed significantly to American greatness and prosperity. It is with pleasure that I support a resolution commending public servants, especially our Federal

workforce, for their dedication and continued service to our Nation.

Public Service Recognition Week represents an opportunity for us to honor and celebrate the commitment of individuals who serve the needs of the Nation through work at all levels of government. It is also a time to call on a new generation to consider public service. Public service civilian employees are critical in demonstrating that the government workforce is a valued component to our country and to our national security. Thanks to all those who serve at the local, State, and Federal level.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for all of his fine work in protecting and enhancing the Federal civil service.

I am glad we have an opportunity to recognize the value of public service. Normally, these resolutions come and go and nobody pays much attention to them, but there is a particular benefit to having this opportunity right now, as the distinguished representative, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), explained earlier.

This is a pivotal time in the history of the Federal workforce. It is a time when half of that Federal workforce will be eligible to retire within the next 3 to 5 years. Of the 2.7 million people, half of them may retire. Many people will say, so what. Well, for those who are going to be so blasé about the importance of the Federal workforce, then I would ask them to look at some of the other civil services throughout the world.

They will not find any other civil service that is as incorruptible, that is as productive, that is as responsible, as the Federal workforce. They are not perfect, but the vast majority of them went into the Federal civil service because they wanted to make other people's lives better, and they remain dedicated to that purpose.

But when most of them joined the civil service, it was held in highest esteem. In the 1960s, three-quarters of high school graduates said they thought it would be honorable to work in public service. Now it is about one out of 5. We have diminished the value and the prestige of the Federal civil service, but they have not diminished their output or their commitment.

But this, as I say, is a pivotal time because instead of trying to attract and retain the best people into civil service, what we have done is to come up with disincentives. The Congress has to fight every year to get a pay raise, even equal to the current very low rate of inflation. We have fought to protect civil servants' ability to collectively bargain, to maintain their health benefits, affordable health insurance; and now as the gentlewoman

from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) mentioned, we have perhaps the biggest struggle: about a third of the Federal workforce, those who work for the Department of Defense, may lose their civil service protections.

The Pentagon's desire is to contract them out. In fact, nearly half a million people, 425,000, are targeted throughout the Federal government to have their job contracted out to the private sector. In some cases that is appropriate; but in many cases it is not, and we are not going to find the kind of dedication to public service, even professionalism and willingness to accept in most cases less pay to be able to serve the public.

We find that on average the difference for performing the same function between the private sector and the Federal sector is 32 percent. It is a smaller disparity on the part of lower-paid employees. As we move into management, the gap is wider. In terms of skilled professionals, the gap is widest.

I think we are in danger of losing something that this country has taken for granted. We need to reward Federal civil servants. We need to protect their benefits and enable them to collectively bargain, and in fact take every opportunity, such as this resolution presents us with, to say thank you, Federal civil servants, thank you for making this the strongest, most cohesive, most stable government in the history of mankind. We are proud of you. We want you to stay, we want you to maintain your commitment, and we want you to know that we appreciate what you do.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the former ranking member of the Subcommittee on Civil Service.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask all of my colleagues to support this resolution that honors the more than 20 million Federal, State, and local government employees for their outstanding contributions to our country.

H. Res. 213 salutes policemen, firefighters, postal workers, public school teachers and administrators, and those who work at government agencies for their steadfast dedication. Likewise, the resolution honors our men and women in the armed service who have died in service to our great Nation.

With the attraction of higher salaries and competitive benefit packages, it is not surprising that Federal, State, and local governments are finding it difficult to keep a talented workforce. It is imperative that efforts to recruit recent college graduates and promote training opportunities for current employees are fostered. Public service work can sometimes be difficult; but regardless of the circumstances, these hardworking individuals are committed to doing excellent work and to making a major difference.

The theme for the 2003 Public Service Recognition Week celebration is "Cele-

brating government workers nationwide." Ironically, this week, instead of celebrating government workers nationwide, the Committee on Government Reform is scheduled to push through a Department of Defense proposal later today that creates a new personnel system and could have far-reaching implications to Federal employees not only with DOD, but at other agencies.

The proposal and others like it must be carefully weighed with consultation by all affected parties, including organizations that represent employees. Again, I encourage all Members of the House to support H. Res. 213. It has been said that service to others is the rent you pay for the room you occupy on Earth.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the millions of Americans who have chosen public service careers. Their service makes life better, and their service brings life to life.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all Members who have spoken, and I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania. In closing, let me just suggest that we have heard some of the issues surrounding continuation of the civil service. We have heard some of the problems and complexities of working for government. We have heard about some things that we must do if we are to retain the type of workforce that we desire to have.

I want to thank all of those who continue to work, who continue to make our civil service the very best in the country, who each and every day give of themselves for the benefit of others. Again, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1200

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I have no other speakers, but I would like to make a brief comment to include and certainly urge all Members to support this resolution. But as the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) has said and others have supported, we owe a great deal to our civil servants throughout this Nation in all walks of life. They have helped our Nation in times of trouble and they keep our Nation running smoothly when there are good times. We are grateful for all they do. We want to continue to work to revise and update and work with them to make sure that a government that needs to be fluid and dynamic and adapt to the needs of the time can do so and look forward to their continued input as we support them, as we see what their needs are, as we see what the Nation's needs are in the future.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for introducing this important legislation.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 213, which

expresses the sense of the House that public service employees should be commended for their dedication and service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week.

There was a time when we were taught that "public service is a public trust." That is true, but it is something more as well. In the aftermath of September 11, it is clear that public service is the bedrock of our Republic. Public sector employees, who have always been vital to the efficient, effective running of the government, now find themselves at the heart of our war on terrorism. It is the job they do that not only improves our quality of life, but also keeps us safe from those who would do us harm.

It is fitting that we set aside a week to recognize the indispensable contributions of those in public service. They have chosen public service despite the fact that the private sector could often have offered a more lucrative career. That said, there is no reason we should take their selflessness for granted. They still deserve our best efforts to enhance pay and benefits, provide improved and innovative training opportunities, and to re-examine the cultural barriers that unfortunately persist in government that make life less than ideal for public sector workers. In short, we must show those already in public service that we appreciate the job they do for us. We must also show those contemplating a career in public service that there are many advantages and opportunities to doing so.

Mr. Speaker, only one in six college-educated Americans expresses significant interest in working for the Federal Government. At the same time, half of the Federal workforce will be eligible to retire within the next 5 years. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us in Congress to reinvigorate a culture of public service across the country. We can do so taking the steps I have described above. As Chairman of the Government Reform Committee, I have been working hard to craft initiatives that will allow us to retain those employees we already have, while attracting the best and brightest of our young people to the public sector. I am confident we will be successful.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank those in public service for their dedication and commitment to our great Nation. I also want to reaffirm my commitment to giving them the best professional opportunities and working environment possible.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 213.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.