

**AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN**

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 389) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the D.C. Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 389

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*

**SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR D.C. SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN.**

On June 4, 2004, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate may jointly designate, the 2004 District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run (in this resolution referred to as the "event") may be run through the Capitol Grounds as part of the journey of the Special Olympics torch to the District of Columbia Special Olympics summer games.

**SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITY OF CAPITOL POLICE BOARD.**

The Capitol Police Board shall take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the event.

**SEC. 3. CONDITIONS RELATING TO PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS.**

The Architect of the Capitol may prescribe conditions for physical preparations for the event.

**SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.**

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

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

House Concurrent Resolution 389 authorizes the use of the Capitol grounds for the 19th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run which benefits the District of Columbia Special Olympics. The torch will cross the Capitol grounds on June 4, 2004.

For 31 years, Special Olympics D.C. has provided sports training for citizens with developmental disabilities. Athletic competition provides athletes with increased confidence and self-esteem and allows them to demonstrate courage and experience the joy of sport. There are now more than 2,000 Special Olympics athletes in the District of Columbia. This event is the largest public awareness campaign for the Special Olympics. Last year over 85,000 law enforcement officers from 35 countries participated in the torch run. It is my hope that this trend will continue. The sponsors of the event work

with the Architect of the Capitol and the United States Capitol Police to comply with all applicable regulations relating to the use of the Capitol grounds.

I encourage my colleagues to join the law enforcement community in supporting the Special Olympics and join me in supporting this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this event needs little introduction. 2004 marks the 37th anniversary of the D.C. Special Olympics. The torch relay event is a traditional part of the opening ceremonies for the Special Olympics which take place at Gallaudet University in the District of Columbia. Each year approximately 2,500 Special Olympians compete in over a dozen events and more than 1 million children and adults with special needs participate in Special Olympic worldwide programs. The event is supported by literally thousands of volunteers from the District and the region.

The goal of the games is to help bring mentally challenged individuals into the larger society under conditions whereby they are accepted and respected. Confidence and self-esteem are the building blocks for these Olympic games. I enthusiastically support this resolution and the very worthwhile endeavor of the Special Olympics. I urge support for H. Con. Res. 389.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, the District of Columbia Special Olympics is the premier event in the region that highlights the athletic accomplishments of disabled children and young adults. Thanks to the tenacity of Eunice Kennedy Shriver and her family, thousands of special Olympians see their self-confidence, self-esteem, and health increase by participating in these games.

The goal of the games is to help bring mentally disabled individuals into the larger society under conditions where they are accepted and respected. Confidence and self-esteem are the building blocks for these Olympic games. Better health, coordination, and lasting friendships are the results of participation.

Law enforcement officers, who are part of the extensive volunteer network that supports the games, carry the Olympic torch across the Capitol Grounds through the District of Columbia to Gallaudet University.

These games are a wonderful expression of inclusiveness and a confirmation of individual contribution. I enthusiastically support this resolution and the very worthwhile endeavor of the Special Olympics.

I urge support for H. Con. Res. 389.

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

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the concurrent resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 389.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 389.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1430

**SENSE OF HOUSE THAT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SHOULD RECTIFY MILITARY POSTAL SYSTEM DEFICIENCIES**

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 608) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Department of Defense should rectify deficiencies in the military postal system to ensure that members of the Armed Forces stationed overseas are able to receive and send mail in a timely manner as well as receive and send election ballots in time to be counted in the 2004 elections.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 608

Whereas the members of the Armed Forces who are currently serving in very dangerous regions of the world deserve a modernized military postal system capable of improving the delivery and tracking of mail to United States forces serving in remote locations;

Whereas the current system relies on outmoded and labor intensive manual sorting processes that result in undue delays and the inability of the Department of Defense to track mail and determine the timeliness of mail delivery;

Whereas the manual sorting of mail intended for deployed members of the Armed Forces unnecessarily requires hours of labor from many troops, which could be used for other, more critical, duties if automation were used;

Whereas the very least our Nation can do for the members of our Armed Forces who are deployed halfway around the world and risking their lives to protect our freedoms is to ensure that they are able to receive the comfort of a letter from those waiting at home;

Whereas mail destined for deployed members of the Armed Forces that is delayed for long periods of time, or not delivered at all, negatively affects the morale of our deployed forces and their families at home;

Whereas the members of our Armed Forces have an unquestionable right to vote in the upcoming election, and the military postal system must not disenfranchise any military absentee voters because of delays in transmitting voting materials;

Whereas with the current military postal system it is not possible to determine the rate of "Undeliverable as Addressed" mail, it is therefore not possible to guarantee that all United States forces wishing to vote will be able to do so;