

when he said that when the day was done, says Charlie, the working people knew I was on their side. And the blacks knew I was on their side. It is hard to explain, but there is a tolerance for human frailty that does not exist outside of East Texas.

Charlie Wilson loved his folks, still does today, and will continue; and southeast Texas will never, ever forget him. The fact that we are honoring him there with the naming of this veterans' facility is a magnificent tribute to a wonderful gentleman.

We wish you well in your retirement, Charlie Wilson. I am glad to support my colleagues in supporting this legislation.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of our time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close with a little story that I read about Charlie Wilson. That was in his first campaign he talks about the fact that at one time when he came back from the Navy and was going to be running for office he thought that there was going to be a discussion about issues regarding taxes. He found out that, and according to the article, the story was that one of the biggest issues in East Texas at that time was that they were using dogs to hunt deer at that time way back in the early 1960s. And they got the impression that Charlie was against that, and they were extremely angry with him and upset. So one of the first things he talks about is going to deliver a speech among 3,000 people and bringing about five or six hounds with him.

So he was and is a very colorful individual. I take pride in being the manager for this bill, and I ask for the naming of the VA clinic in his name and in his honor.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this is a bipartisan bill. I urge all Members of this body to support H.R. 4317 to name the Lufkin, Texas, VA clinic the Charles Wilson Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4317.

A fellow Texan, Charlie Wilson was educated at the U.S. Naval Academy and served overseas as well as at the Pentagon. After retiring from the Navy in 1960 with the rank of Lieutenant, he returned back to Lufkin and ran successfully for the Texas Legislature, serving in that capacity for twelve years.

In 1972, Charlie was elected as the U.S. Representative for the 2nd Congressional District of Texas and began his distinguished 24-year career in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Naming the Lufkin VA Clinic in honor of Congressman Wilson would be a fitting tribute to such a devoted public servant.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. 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 Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4317.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. 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 H.R. 4317.

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

There was no objection.

#### HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SECURITY OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ACT OF 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4060) to amend the Peace Corps Act to establish an Ombudsman and an Office of Safety and Security of the Peace Corps, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4060

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

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Health, Safety, and Security of Peace Corps Volunteers Act of 2004".

##### SEC. 2. OMBUDSMAN OF THE PEACE CORPS.

The Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 4 the following new section:

##### "SEC. 4A. OMBUDSMAN OF THE PEACE CORPS.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Peace Corps the Office of the Ombudsman of the Peace Corps (hereinafter in this section referred to as the 'Office'). The Office shall be headed by the Ombudsman of the Peace Corps (hereinafter in this section referred to as the 'Ombudsman'), who shall be appointed by and report directly to the Director of the Peace Corps.

"(b) VOLUNTEER COMPLAINTS AND OTHER MATTERS.—The Ombudsman shall receive and, as appropriate, inquire into complaints, questions, or concerns submitted by current or former volunteers regarding services or support provided by the Peace Corps to its volunteers, including matters pertaining to—

- "(1) the safety and security of volunteers;
- "(2) due process, including processes relating to separation from the Peace Corps;
- "(3) benefits and assistance that may be due to current or former volunteers;
- "(4) medical or other health-related assistance; and
- "(5) access to files and records of current or former volunteers.

"(c) EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS AND OTHER MATTERS.—The Ombudsman shall receive and, as appropriate, inquire into complaints, questions, or concerns submitted by current or former employees of the Peace Corps on any matters of grievance.

"(d) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—The Ombudsman shall—

- "(1) recommend responses to individual matters received under subsections (b) and (c);
- "(2) make recommendations for administrative or regulatory adjustments to address recurring problems or other difficulties of the Peace Corps;
- "(3) identify systemic issues that relate to the practices, policies, and administrative procedures of the Peace Corps affecting volunteers and employees; and
- "(4) call attention to problems not yet adequately considered by the Peace Corps.

"(e) STANDARDS OF OPERATION.—The Ombudsman shall carry out the duties under this section in a manner that is—

- "(1) independent, impartial in the conduct of inquiries, and confidential; and
- "(2) consistent with the revised Standards for the Establishment and Operation of Ombudsman Offices (August 2003) as endorsed by the American Bar Association.

"(f) INVOLVEMENT IN MATTERS SUBJECT TO ONGOING ADJUDICATION, LITIGATION, OR INVESTIGATION.—The Ombudsman shall refrain from any involvement in the merits of individual matters that are the subject of ongoing adjudication or litigation, or investigations related to such adjudication or litigation.

"(g) REPORTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and semiannually thereafter, the Ombudsman shall submit to the Director of the Peace Corps, the Chair of the Peace Corps National Advisory Council, and Congress a report containing a summary of—

- "(A) the complaints, questions, and concerns considered by the Ombudsman;
- "(B) the inquiries completed by the Ombudsman;

"(C) recommendations for action with respect to such complaints, questions, concerns, or inquiries; and

"(D) any other matters that the Ombudsman considers relevant.

"(2) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall maintain confidentiality on any matter that the Ombudsman considers appropriate in accordance with subsection (e).

"(h) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'employee' means an employee of the Peace Corps, an employee of the Office of Inspector General of the Peace Corps, an individual appointed or assigned under the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.) to carry out functions under this Act, or an individual subject to a personal services contract with the Peace Corps."

##### SEC. 3. OFFICE OF SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE PEACE CORPS.

The Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is further amended by inserting after section 4A the following new section:

##### "SEC. 4B. OFFICE OF SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE PEACE CORPS.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Peace Corps the Office of Safety and Security of the Peace Corps (hereinafter in this section referred to as the 'Office'). The Office shall be headed by the Associate Director of Safety and Security of the Peace Corps, who shall be appointed by and report directly to the Director of the Peace Corps.

"(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Office established under subsection (a) shall be responsible for all safety and security activities of the Peace Corps, including background checks of volunteers and staff, safety and security of volunteers and staff (including training), safety and security of facilities, security of information technology, and