

Mr. Speaker, normally I would not come to the floor to oppose a bill naming a post office in someone else's district. I am confident I speak on behalf of some of the west coast Members of Congress, as well as the mainstream American values and certainly have no personal animosity towards the lady for whom this post office is named in this bill.

However, there is a plethora of information on the record that sets her apart from, I will say, the most consistent of American values. And rather than read those into the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, I just wish to voice my objection.

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

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON).

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 438, legislation naming a postal facility in Berkeley, California, after Maudelle Shirek. This measure was introduced by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) on February 1, 2005.

Maudelle Shirek, the granddaughter of slaves, was born in Jefferson, Arkansas, before moving to the Bay Area over 60 years ago. She became an activist and a community leader. Certainly emblematic of her community, Ms. Shirek has spent a lifetime fighting against injustice, poverty, and housing discrimination. She is now 94 years old.

In the 1960s and 1970s, she was active in the anti-war movement. She founded two senior centers, was one of the first elected officials to address the AIDS epidemic, and helped organize the "Free Mandela Movement."

A well-known and outspoken former member of the Berkeley City Council and former Berkeley vice mayor, Maudelle Shirek was instrumental in encouraging former Congressman Ron V. Dellums to enter politics and has served as a role model for many people in the community, especially the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Earlier this year the Young Adult Project 2005, Black History Month Celebration honored Maudelle Shirek's "Life, Legacy and Service."

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for seeking to honor her constituent in her community, a former member of the city council, in this manner and urge swift passage of this measure.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, just to make a couple of gentle points, the effort has been, at least on the record, as not, I do not want to say fighting against injustice, but a record of fighting against justice,

particularly in the case of the effort to free Mumia Abu-Jamal. I think most of us know about that particular case. And I am concerned about a role model. I am concerned about young people a generation or two from now. When they go back by that post office in Berkeley and look at the name on the post office, they are going to ask what were the principles that brought this about? And I contend that those principles would be running contrary to American values.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 438.

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. KING of Iowa. 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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 209) supporting the goals and ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expressing the sense of Congress that Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 209

Whereas since the Violence Against Women Act was passed in 1994, the rate of domestic violence has diminished; the rate of family violence fell between 1993 and 2002 from 5.4 victims to 2.1 victims per 1,000 United States residents age 12 or older;

Whereas although great strides have been made toward breaking the cycle of violence, much work remains to be done;

Whereas domestic violence affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, ethnic, and economic groups in the United States;

Whereas family violence accounted for 11 percent of all reported and unreported violence between 1998 and 2002;

Whereas about 22 percent of murders in 2002 were family murders;

Whereas family members were responsible for 43 percent of murders of females in 2002;

Whereas of the nearly 500,000 men and women in State prisons for a violent crime in 1997, 15 percent were there for a violent crime against a family member;

Whereas the average age for a child killed by a parent is 7 years old and 4 out of 5 victims killed by a parent were younger than 13 years old;

Whereas there is a need to increase the public awareness and understanding of do-

mestic violence and the needs of battered women and children;

Whereas the month of October, 2005, has been recognized as an appropriate month for activities furthering awareness of domestic violence; and

Whereas the dedication and success of those working tirelessly to end domestic violence and the strength of the survivors of domestic violence should be recognized: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence in the Nation by supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE 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 the concurrent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 209.

This concurrent resolution, introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN), supports the goals and ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. According to the American Bar Association, nearly one in three women experience at least one physical assault by a partner during their lifetime. Consequently, in October, 1981, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence found a way to connect both victims of domestic violence with battered women's advocates by instituting a National Day of Unity. The establishment of this day of recognition involve community activities at the national, State, and local levels. The program was successful in heightening awareness and empowering women in violent relationships.

In October, 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. Because of this national movement, the first national toll-free hotline was created. In 1989 legislation commemorating "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" was first adopted by Congress and has been adopted every year since. This recognition has helped to bring domestic violence to the forefront of public debate. The awareness has contributed to the expansion of public education campaigns, victim services, recognition activities, and community outreach programs.

I certainly hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing victims of

domestic violence through the adoption of this concurrent resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for authoring this thoughtful resolution. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this resolution.

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN).

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored that our leadership has chosen to bring this concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 209, before this august body. This concurrent resolution highlights the need to focus on and end domestic violence.

First, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform; and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), ranking member, for bringing this important piece of legislation to the House floor.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the gentleman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE), the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, who has worked with me as the Republican lead on this legislation. I am proud to say that this is a bipartisan effort. Her work on behalf of ending domestic violence and violence against women is commendable, and her leadership in this effort is invaluable.

My heartfelt thanks also goes out to my 73 colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have cosponsored this resolution. I am pleased that this bill has received such strong bipartisan support because domestic violence transcends party affiliation; it transcends ethnicity; it transcends gender. Simply put, it transcends the boundaries of human decency that human beings owe each other.

House Concurrent Resolution 209 is intended to support the goals and ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month this October. As our Nation strives to persevere in the aftermath of both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it is important that we not lose sight of the issues that have continually plagued Americans for decades.

Our Nation faces a distressing crisis that affects women, men, and children regardless of race, ethnicity, or religion. I have seen firsthand some of the dreadful and vile effects of domestic violence. I have seen the blackened eyes, the broken noses, and the broken limbs.

The crisis of domestic violence is one that should not go unnoticed, especially because it is a crisis in which violations typically occur in places where we believe we have a safe haven: in our homes.

Between 1998 and 2002, family violence accounted for 11 percent of all reported and unreported violence. Nearly 22 percent of murders in 2002 were fam-

ily murders, and women have suffered disproportionately with 43 percent of murders occurring by family perpetrators.

I am deeply saddened that domestic violence continues to occur in our backyards. In my city of Houston, Texas, over 31,000 incidents of family violence were reported in 2004. That is an astounding average of 88 incidents a day. That is more than three family violence incidents an hour. In fact, 34 confirmed deaths in Houston in 2004 were as a result of family violence, many of whom were children under the age of 16 years.

Such horrendous statistics are jarring, but I take great pride in the efforts of the Houston Police Department to combat domestic violence. The police department took the initiative to begin a program known as "Houston Men Against Family Violence." This initiative, which is run jointly by the Houston Police Department and other community partners including the Houston Area Women's Center, works to express the message that ending domestic violence is a responsibility that should be shared equally by all people. It educates and encourages men in the community to volunteer as leaders in the effort to end domestic violence by reducing the part men play as the primary perpetrators of family violence.

I think that it is of utmost importance, utmost necessity, that we all work together to have a chance at effectively eradicating this appalling crime. So I want to commend the Houston Police Department, all law enforcement agencies, and all other organizations that work to make our homes and families safer.

I would like to thank several organizations for their commitment to ending domestic violence and for their endorsements of this concurrent resolution. I appreciate the efforts and support of the Harris County District Attorney's Office, the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence, the YWCA, the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community, the Montana State Attorney General's Office, and the Utah State Attorney General's Office.

These organizations work tirelessly every day to combat the epidemic of domestic violence that has ravaged this country.

□ 1515

I commend them and hope that we in this body will continue to support their efforts. It is my wish that we can continue to work together to bring an end to the pervasive and damaging crime of domestic violence through the future legislative efforts of this august body.

The month of October provides us with an opportunity to recognize the dedication and success of those working tirelessly to end domestic violence and the strength of the survivors, but our efforts and awareness should continue beyond October. Every day ought to be End Domestic Violence Day. Do-

mestic violence knows no boundaries of time or space or place.

I urge all of my distinguished colleagues to support the adoption of H. Con. Res. 209. Doing this will show the American public that we stand united against domestic violence.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), another cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 209.

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the great honor of hosting the Soroptimist International, the Indian Rock Chapter of Pennsylvania, here in the Nation's Capital, a women's organization devoted to improving the lives of women and families across the globe. I was also honored to have the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) joining me to address the group on a variety of issues important to women and their families.

The Soroptimists do great work by serving as an international voice in advancing the need for improved medical care, poverty relief, and job training for women everywhere. However, during our discussion, one issue took precedence, the need to recognize the plight of victims of domestic violence and to increase the Federal Government's responsibility to support its victims and to punish its abusers.

Domestic violence is a scourge on our social fabric. Although much has been done since the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994 to reduce domestic abuse, more must be done to break the cycle of violence that has affected the lives of millions of women and children across the Nation.

According to the Department of Justice, each year 1 million women suffer nonfatal violence by an intimate partner. The American Psychological Association reports that nearly one in three adult women experience at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood. These are statistics that cannot stand in a civil society in the 21st century. We must do more to increase awareness of the needs of battered women and their families. We must do more to stop domestic violence before it begins through education at an early age for boys and girls, and we must make sure that battered women and families receive adequate assistance through shelters, transitional housing assistance and other Federal programs.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud supporter and sponsor of this bill. Domestic Violence Awareness Month is an important time for women, men, parents, teachers, for all of us, to recognize a problem that continues to plague our society. As Americans, we owe a shared responsibility to help our neighbors and our communities. Let us all take this time to help victims of domestic violence and finally end this cycle which destroys lives and families.

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

Mr. Speaker, October 1 will mark the 18th annual observation of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic Violence Awareness Month has its genesis in 1981 when advocates for battered women across the country observed a day of unity in order to publicize domestic violence. Over the next 6 years, the day of unity evolved into a week of activities and in 1987 into Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

In 1989, Congress recognized the tragedy of domestic violence in our country by passing commemorative legislation that honored victims of domestic violence and marked the observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Congress has since passed similar legislation each year to bring added exposure to this issue.

In 1994, through the coordinated efforts of advocacy groups such as the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the California Alliance Against Domestic Violence, and the National Organization of Women, Congress passed the landmark Violence Against Women Act. President Clinton signed the VAWA to shine a bright light on an issue that had loomed in the shadows for far too long.

The act provided help to victims who seek justice within the legal system and a refuge from abusive and dangerous domestic situations. To victims of domestic violence and advocates fighting to educate the public, this was truly a momentous occasion; and in the decade that followed the signing of the bill, violence in American homes dropped significantly. Indeed, the rate of family violence fell from 5.4 victims to 2.1 victims per 1,000 United States residents age 12 or older from the year 1993 to 2002.

Since then, other entities of the Federal Government have lent their support. In October 2003, the U.S. Postal Service issued its Stop the Family Violence semi-postal stamp to raise funds for the Department of Health and Human Services' domestic violence programs. To date, the postal service has sold more than 30 million of these stamps and generated \$1.8 million for domestic violence programs.

As more Americans become aware of domestic violence, they learn that such violence knows no bounds and affects all parts of society. No race, economic class, or education level is immune from this home-grown tragedy. However, communities of color and Native American communities remain at higher risks of domestic violence. They also have fewer services than other communities to deal with the violence and negative economic consequences that frequently result.

While great strides have been made, an intolerable level of domestic violence still exists in the United States. Indeed, in 2002, nearly one-quarter of all murders in the United States took place within a family setting.

In observing Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we must bear in

mind the plight of hundreds of thousands of domestic violence victims and the work of those who continue to dedicate their energy and resources to eradicating domestic violence. As has occurred every year since 1989, I urge this body to pass this commemorative legislation and to mark the observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON).

(Ms. CARSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time and thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for promoting this issue before this country.

Violence itself is all too prevalent among us. Domestic violence in particular is devastating. It was not long ago that we were able to get the ears and the eyes of those who make a difference, the lawyers, the judiciary, the courts, who understood what it meant to be victims of violence.

I rise today on behalf of the victims who no longer have a voice, on behalf of victims who are weary and too afraid to speak out for fear that speaking out will entrap them even further if they do, speaking on behalf of the millions of women and children who suffer daily from the silent epidemic of domestic violence. This societal ill envelops all socio-economic groups, regardless of race, ethnicity, or education. It does not matter whether you live in the suburbs, a city, or more remote rural areas. It touches all of our communities.

The numbers of domestic violence are staggering. You have heard it from my counterpart, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON). Surveys conducted over and over again show that one-third of women are at some time in their lives victims of domestic violence.

Regrettably, this violence against women often escalates to homicide. In Indiana there were 60 reported deaths due to domestic violence in 2003. Nationally, 1,880 women were murdered by men in 2002. I realize that sometimes the coin flips and there are women who are perpetrators of violence. We have to, as a body, as a country, address domestic violence from all sides; and I applaud the creators of this resolution to keep it before the ears and eyes of America, and would encourage the support of everyone in this body of good will, of common sense, and of understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of victims who no longer have a voice, on behalf of victims who are weary and too tired to speak out or fear what will happen to them if they do. I am speaking for the millions of women and children who suffer daily from the silent epidemic of domestic violence. This societal ill envelops all socio-economic groups regardless of race, ethnicity or education. It does not matter whether you live in the suburbs, the city or

more remote rural areas; it touches all of our communities.

The number of domestic violence victims in our country is staggering. A survey conducted by the Commonwealth Fund, found that "One-third (31%) of all women have been kicked, hit or punched, choked, or otherwise physically abused by a spouse or partner in their lifetimes. Three percent—a figure representing more than 3 million women in the U.S.—reported domestic abuse during that year."

Each year in my home State of Indiana, thousands of women and children fall victim to domestic violence. From July of 2003 through June of 2004, 37,396 adults and 12,032 children were served in residential and nonresidential programs for domestic violence.

Domestic violence continues to be the leading cause of injury to women in this country. The agony is augmented by the fact that a great number of victims personally know their perpetrators. Sixty-four percent of women who reported being raped, physically assaulted, and/or stalked since age 18, were victimized by a current or former husband, cohabitating partner, boyfriend or date.

Regrettably, this violence against women often escalates to homicide. In Indiana, there were 60 reported deaths due to domestic violence in 2003.

Nationally, 1,880 women were murdered by men in 2002. The statistics further indicate that of these women who were murdered, 1,587 were killed by a man they knew as compared to 168 who were killed by strangers. These horrific assaults are occurring in our homes and in environments with people we know and should be able to trust.

Given these statistics, it is imperative that we reauthorize, build upon and support the Violence Against Women Act, which has paved the way for significant gains in the fight against domestic violence. Over the last 10 years VAWA has helped to decrease the incidence of domestic violence, improve services for victims, and implement positive institutional changes.

However, there is still much work to be done in our country where on average nearly 3 women a day are murdered by abusive boyfriends or husbands and up to 10 million children a year witness this violence.

We must hold legislative and judicial bodies accountable to promote and enforce laws that protect the victim and respond appropriately to the perpetrators. We must find ways to strengthen our health care response; protect the economic security of victims; ensure safe, decent and affordable housing for victims; provide additional prevention programs; support the particular needs of communities of color and native American women; address the special needs of immigrant women; provide enhanced services for military victims of domestic and sexual violence; and target resources toward children and adolescents who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence.

Since coming to Congress in 1997, I have sought to raise awareness about this silent epidemic and to encourage and support legislation preventing these abuses and violations against humanity. In order for us to put an end to violence against women we must address and educate all audiences; women, men and children. We must support the reauthorization of VAWA, ensure that it is well-funded and expand its reach.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as

he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT), the former sheriff of King County, who knows a great deal about combating violent crime.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman and also thank the gentleman from Texas for introducing this resolution.

As has been said already this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, this is an important issue; and I come before this House to talk about this issue because it is a passion that I share with all Americans across this country to eliminate, eventually, domestic violence. As a young person growing up and experiencing domestic violence in my own household, and then also as the sheriff of King County and a law enforcement officer for 33 years, I have a great deal of experience in witnessing the effects and impacts that domestic violence has on our own personal lives and on our communities and our Nation as a whole.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution and recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month and to be an original cosponsor of the Violence Against Women Act of 2005, which will be considered in the full House tomorrow. The Violence Against Women Act has provided Federal resources and protections for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. It is crucial that Congress reauthorize this program.

I want to take a moment just to share maybe a story or two, to draw a picture for those who may be listening, about what domestic violence really does. It takes lives, it takes families, it takes communities. I have seen it.

Go to a police call, go to a domestic violence call as a police officer and walk into a home and tell me you will not be impacted and affected by children who are hiding and cowering in a corner, and witness two adults screaming and yelling, and maybe one has a knife, maybe one has a gun. Children witnessing violence in their own home, against people who supposedly love them. It is sad. It is not only sad; it is tragic.

Domestic violence can lead to all sorts of other issues that affect and impact our children: alcoholism; drug abuse; emotional, physical abuse; sexual abuse in the family; and it drives children from their homes and on to the streets. I have seen that too. I have seen them driven on to the streets and into the arms of people who want to do them harm.

The month of October is designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It is good that we have a month where we can think back and look at where we came from. In 1972 when I started out as a police officer and you got a call to a family fight, that is what they called it then, a family fight, you would drive up and meet the people standing in the yard or screaming in their house and the kids in the corner cowering because they are

afraid that their mom or dad might be hurt, their mom or dad might go to jail, or they might be hurt.

□ 1530

The police officer back then only would separate the parties and wish them well and they would be on their way; no counseling, nobody went to jail, nobody held accountable, nobody held responsible in 1972 in Seattle. Today, we now have many, many laws in place that hold people accountable who commit these crimes. It is about time.

We need to do this. We need to remember. We need to remember the crimes of domestic violence because it will rip our Nation apart. It rips families apart, it will rip our Nation apart, and I look forward to continuing my work in stomping out domestic violence.

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

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Many law enforcement officers will tell us that responding to a domestic violence call is one of the most dangerous crimes to be called to investigate. My husband was a law enforcement officer for 20 years, and they were the calls that he felt threatened by and that he always felt so sorry for the family members involved, and certainly for the children.

I have served on several boards of domestic violence shelters, and I know how important it is to shine that light, the public light of scrutiny on the victim, to bring information about victims, how they are abused, and also, the perpetrator, so that by shining this light on domestic violence and having Domestic Violence Awareness Month, that the public will be better informed, and that we will continue to see a reduction in the number of abusive situations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 209.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 209 recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I would like to thank my colleague from Texas for offering this important resolution.

In 2002, family members were responsible for 43 percent of murders of females. Twenty-two percent of murders in 2002 were by family members. The average age for a child killed by a parent is 7 years old and four out of five victims killed by a parent were younger than 13 years old. I could go on for hours with alarming and truly sad statistics similar to these. As a Member of Congress, I believe it is my duty to stand here on the House floor and draw attention to these startling statistics. It is important to keep reiterating these numbers because they aren't just statistics—they are women, men, and children. They are our mothers, sisters, daughters, aunts, cousins and nieces. In some cases they are our fathers, brothers and sons.

Across the country, day in and day out, individuals work tirelessly to eradicate domestic

violence by not only participating in domestic violence help and support groups but by educating those on domestic abuse prevention. In central New Jersey, there are many exemplary organizations that provide valuable services to victims of domestic violence.

One organization in Monmouth County, New Jersey is 180 Turning Lives Around which provides training and education to both victims and offenders of domestic violence. Some of the many services provided by the group are a School-Based Abuse Prevention Program designed to raise the awareness of abuse among adolescents and provide tools to reduce the risk of teens entering into abusive relationships, a temporary Safe House for women and children who are forced out of their homes because of violence and a 180's Families in Transition Program aimed at providing longer term housing for women and children who face economic instability if they leave their abusive relationship permanently. At these homes, counseling services and training is provided to get women who have been abused on their feet again.

Womanspace is a similar organization aimed at serving all victims of domestic and sexual assault in Mercer County, New Jersey. Womanspace provides counseling and support services, emergency services designed to assist victims immediately following the initial crisis through hotlines, Domestic Violence Victim Response Teams and a confidential and secure short term shelter.

Since we passed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 1994 the number of reported incidences of domestic violence has decreased. In New Jersey the cases of reported domestic violence decreased by 2 percent from 2004. Although these figures are encouraging, we cannot reduce our attention to this problem. We must continue to support organizations that work day in and day out to educate others on the dangers of domestic violence and counsel those who are already victims. We can do this by reauthorizing full funding for the VAWA which should come to the House floor soon.

I also hope that we will have the opportunity to consider other important legislative measures that will combat this problem. For example, Rep. CAPPs, offered in the 108th Congress the Domestic Violence Screening, and Treatment Act of 2003 that gave States the option to cover domestic violence screening and treatment services under Medicaid. One hundred and twenty two of our colleagues supported this bill, yet it was never brought to the House floor for consideration. Rep. ROTHMAN offered in the 108th Congress the Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act that among other things would allow States that authorize law enforcement to confiscate guns in certain domestic violence to receive Federal grants. As legislators, we must be leaders and take sensible and needed actions to renew our commitment to eliminate domestic violence.

Recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month is an important first step but it should not be only action in the 109th Congress. I urge my colleagues to support this necessary resolution and by supporting this resolution today make, a commitment to taking even more steps to eliminating domestic violence.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues today speaking in support of H.

Con. Res. 209, a Resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and helping to raise awareness of the impact of domestic violence on families across the nation.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence began to observe the concept of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 1987—the year that the first national toll-free telephone line was established. In 1989, Congress passed the first legislative recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, expressing the importance of awareness and education and encouraging preventative actions in every community around the Nation. And each year since that time, we have renewed the commitment of Congress and the Federal Government to those goals, as we are doing today in passing H. Con. Res. 209.

This legislation is also particularly timely because we are now in the process of renewing the Violence Against Women Act as part of the Justice Department reauthorization. That legislation, originally passed and signed into law in 1994, allocated a substantial amount of Federal funding for prevention efforts, and it broadened the range of services and counseling available to women who become victims of abuse. In 2000, Congress reauthorized the bill and strengthened it, as we must again this year, driven by the goal of eliminating entirely the scourge that still wrecks far too many families across America including, tragically, many innocent children who witness the violence.

One such tragic example occurred in my congressional district in April 2003, when the troubled Chief of Police of Tacoma, Washington, murdered his wife in the parking lot of a suburban shopping center just a few feet away from the couple's two young children. This man, Chief David Brame, ultimately took his own life that day, but he left those two kids with scars that will remain with them for the entirety of their lives. He also left the community questioning why and how such a tragedy could have occurred. An investigation later uncovered serious problems within the Tacoma Police Department which not only allowed the hiring of this individual with a history of domestic violence but continued to promote him despite serious and repeated violent acts against his wife, Crystal Judson Brame. Clearly, something was wrong here. The Tacoma Police Department lacked a strong and enforceable policy to address domestic violence committed by a member of its own—in fact the Chief. And this was not a deficiency exclusive to Tacoma. As a result, the Washington State Legislature passed a law establishing strong standards for law enforcement agencies within the state to prevent and punish future incidents of domestic violence committed by law enforcement officers. We can and we should do more to call attention to the problems, to address the deficiencies that exist, and to stop these pernicious instances of domestic violence from ever occurring.

It is in this spirit that I am pleased today to join my colleagues in supporting H. Con. Res. 209, and in working later this week and this month to improve and strengthen the provisions of the Violence Against Women Act which expire at the end of this year.

Mr. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). The ques-

tion is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 209.

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. AL GREEN of Texas. 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1831

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GILCREST) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of he House of the following titles:

H.R. 3667. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 South Barrington Street in Los Angeles, California, as the "Karl Malden Station".

H.R. 3767. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2600 Oak Street, in St. Charles, Illinois, as the "Jacob L. Frazier Post Office Building".

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3200. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the Service members' Group Life Insurance program, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1017. An act to reauthorize grants for the water resources research and technology institutes established under the Water Resources Research Act of 1984.

S. 1709. An act to provide favorable treatment for certain projects in response to Hurricane Katrina, with respect to revolving loans under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.J. Res. 66, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 438, by the yeas and nays;

H. Con. Res. 209, by the yeas and nays.

The first and third electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF "LIGHTS ON AFTER-SCHOOL!"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 66.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 66, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 403, nays 0, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 494]

YEAS—403

Abercrombie	Butterfield	Diaz-Balart, L.
Ackerman	Buyer	Diaz-Balart, M.
Aderholt	Calvert	Dicks
Akin	Camp	Dingell
Alexander	Cannon	Doggett
Allen	Cantor	Doolittle
Andrews	Capito	Doyle
Baca	Capuano	Drake
Bachus	Cardoza	Dreier
Baird	Carnahan	Duncan
Baker	Carson	Edwards
Baldwin	Carter	Ehlers
Barrett (SC)	Case	Emanuel
Barrow	Castle	Emerson
Bartlett (MD)	Chabot	Engel
Barton (TX)	Chandler	English (PA)
Bass	Choccola	Eshoo
Bean	Clay	Etheridge
Beauprez	Cleaver	Evans
Becerra	Clyburn	Everett
Berkley	Coble	Farr
Berman	Cole (OK)	Feeney
Berry	Conaway	Ferguson
Biggert	Conyers	Filner
Bilirakis	Cooper	Fitzpatrick (PA)
Bishop (GA)	Costa	Flake
Bishop (NY)	Costello	Foley
Bishop (UT)	Cramer	Forbes
Blackburn	Crenshaw	Ford
Blunt	Crowley	Fortenberry
Boehlert	Cubin	Fossella
Boehner	Cuellar	Fox
Bonilla	Cummings	Frank (MA)
Bonner	Cunningham	Franks (AZ)
Bono	Davis (AL)	Frelinghuysen
Boozman	Davis (CA)	Gallely
Boren	Davis (IL)	Garrett (NJ)
Boucher	Davis (KY)	Gerlach
Boyd	Davis (TN)	Gibbons
Bradley (NH)	Davis, Jo Ann	Gilchrest
Brady (PA)	Davis, Tom	Gillmor
Brown (OH)	Deal (GA)	Gingrey
Brown (SC)	DeFazio	Gohmert
Brown, Corrine	DeGette	Gonzalez
Brown-Waite,	Delahunt	Goode
Ginny	DeLauro	Goodlatte
Burgess	DeLay	Gordon
Burton (IN)	Dent	Granger