

to evacuees, for a period of a week following the storm.

Before, during, and in the immediate aftermath of the storm, the small staff of the Stennis Medical Clinic provided medical care to all who needed it among the evacuees onsite. This included some 20 special needs patients, and soon after the storm, the Stennis clinic staff was complemented by medical personnel airlifted from other National Aeronautics and Space Administration Centers.

Although commercial electrical power was not available to Stennis for 10 days following the storm, electrical power was maintained to all essential buildings through the extensive use of diesel-powered generators and the around the clock efforts of a team of individuals who mechanically maintained those generators and kept them fueled. This also enabled the pumps on Stennis's deep-water wells to provide a continuous supply of potable water for drinking, cooking, and sanitation to support the 3,700 people onsite.

These brave individuals include: Cheryl Bennett, James Bevis, Terry Bordelon, Steve Brettel, Vicki Brown, Bill Brumfield, Kirt Bush, Paul Byrd, Ethan Calder, Marla Carpenter, David Carstens, Jonathan Clemens, Eric Crawford, Cheri Cuevas, John Davenport, David Del Santo, Isaac DeLancey, Jim Freeman, Greg Garrett, Dave Geiger, Stan Gill, Don Griffith, Haynes Haselmaier, Coby Holloway, Gay Irby, Manning "JJ" Jones, Catriona Ladner, David Ladner, Richard Ladner, Stanley Lee, Michelle Logan, Ron Magee, Sharlene Majors, Steve McCord, Pat McCullough, Michael McDaniel, Mike McKinion, Kirk Miller, John Mitchell, Ron Moore, David R. Oakes, Kevin A. Oliver, Alan Phillips, John Nick Pitalo, Allen Price, Porter Pryor, Margaret Roberts, Miguel Rodriguez, Jason Saucier, Dale Sewell, Donald Seymore, Kathy Slade, Sue Smith, David Throckmorton, Karen Vander, John Waquespack, Rodney Wilkinson, Robert Williams, and Michael J. Witt.

Thank you, to all of these employees, for their selfless and honorable actions. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. 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 Texas (Mr. HALL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 948.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TO EXTEND TEMPORARILY CERTAIN AUTHORITIES OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6159) to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 6159

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

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY EXTENSION.

Any program, authority, or provision, including any pilot program, authorized under the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) or the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) as of September 30, 2006, that is scheduled to expire on or after September 30, 2006 and before February 2, 2007, shall remain authorized through February 2, 2007, under the same terms and conditions in effect on September 30, 2006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MANZULLO. 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 this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the bill simply extends all of the programs, including pilot programs, the authorities or provisions of the Small Business Act, the Small Business Investment Act, until February 2 of 2007.

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Currently, the programs and authorities of the SBA expire in September on Saturday, September 30. Passage of this bill will continue to give the committee the time necessary to work on a more comprehensive SBA reauthorization during the rest of this session.

Many of the programs of the SBA do not operate under a direct appropriation. This includes the 7(a) general business loan guarantee program; the Certified Development Company program; and the Small Business Investment Company program. Passage of this bill will make it absolutely certain that there is no legal ambiguity as to whether or not the Federal Government can continue to guarantee these critical loans and debenture programs during the period of time covered by a continuing resolution.

In addition, this bill would extend the authority of the SBA to operate several smaller programs including grants to Small Business Development Centers to participate in the Drug-Free Workplace program; sustainability funding for Women Business Centers; a pre-disaster mitigation pilot program; the New Markets Venture Capital program; and BusinessLinc. It would also extend SBA's cosponsorship and gift authority, which enables the SBA to accept private donations to help put on events or print publications, thus saving the taxpayers precious dollars.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is quite simple. It contains the exact same language, with only the dates changed, that was

signed into law four times in the 108th Congress when this House confronted the same problem 2 years ago in attempting to pass a comprehensive SBA reauthorization bill into law. Unfortunately, we are at an impasse today for nearly the same reasons.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6159 so that our Nation's small businesses will see no interruption of service from the SBA over the next 4 months while Congress completes its work for the year.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the legislation being offered today will extend the authorization of the Small Business Administration and most of its programs. While these initiatives would have been extended with any the continuing resolution that the House will pass this week, this bill will extend the authorization to February of 2007.

It is unfortunate that after 2 years, and nearly 50 hearings in the committee, that the only legislation to address the issues at the SBA consists of eight lines of text. While this extension may not include any program changes, it in no way should reflect that the agency is without its problems.

In fact, over the past 2 years, many of the issues at the SBA have been exacerbated by a combination of budget cuts, mismanagement and the inability to adequately respond to the needs of small businesses.

In the last few years, SBA loan programs have grown more expensive to borrowers because of an increase in fees that are being paid by small businesses. We have also seen the problems in our Federal contracting system grow worse for small firms. This year alone, \$12 billion in Federal contracts that should have gone to small businesses went to large corporations.

The situation in the gulf coast also revealed that the SBA has serious structural and management problems related to its disaster loan program. Over a year after Hurricane Katrina, just over \$2 billion of the \$10 billion in approved disaster loans for Katrina victims had been disbursed.

At a time when small businesses are faced with an economic environment that is less than certain, I believe that we should be doing more to help these entrepreneurs. The SBA has a role in improving the climate for small businesses, and Congress has a duty to give them the tools to do just that.

While this legislation will ensure that many of the successful programs can continue to operate, it does fail to extend key provisions that serve veterans and low-income populations. We should be extending all of the initiatives, not picking and choosing.

I am disappointed that Congress will not improve the operations at the SBA, and it is my hope that the committee in the next Congress will act quickly to rectify this

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

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further people that are going to be speaking, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6159.

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.

REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), amended by Public Law 108-375, and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following Member of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy:

Ms. KILPATRICK, Michigan.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SRI LANKA CONFLICT SURGES

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, we are on the verge of a full-scale war in Sri Lanka. The 2002 cease-fire agreement and the peace process in Sri Lanka between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, LTTE, is essentially nonexistent. The violence is escalating and thousands of Sri Lankan civilians are suffering.

These past few months have resulted in nearly 2,000 deaths with more than 200,000 displaced persons. The fighting has also blocked access to essential supplies for many parts of the northeastern province, cutting off more than 60,000 Sinhalese, Muslims and Tamils from water.

This sinister cycle of war, cease-fire and then more war is not effective. Each side blames the other side and the situation is only getting worse.

Hostilities must end and violence must not be the means for resolving ethnic conflict. All efforts must be focused on restoring and sustaining peace, and both parties must swallow their pride for the sake of their Nation.

Norway and the co-chairs of the Tokyo Donors' Conference, which includes the United States, have called for a return to unconditional negotia-

tions in October. This return to the negotiating table is critical, and I am fully supportive of this effort. Both parties must guarantee the safety of its citizens, aid workers and peace monitors. Meanwhile, the LTTE must denounce terrorism as a means to its political aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe the majority of people in Sri Lanka would be in favor of a democratic solution to the conflict. The political challenges cannot be resolved through war, and that is clear.

In June, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, Richard Boucher stated "though we reject the methods that the Tamil Tigers have used, there are legitimate issues raised by the Tamil community and they have a legitimate desire to control their own lives, to rule their own destinies, and to govern themselves in their homeland."

I echo this sentiment and support a solution that retains Sri Lanka's unity. Yet, it should grant a level of autonomy to ethnic minorities like the Tamils. We have seen very similar successful situations throughout the world. Places like Quebec in Canada, Wales and Scotland in Great Britain are all part of their Federal Nations but have significant autonomy.

Mr. Speaker, the situation in Sri Lanka is certainly not getting any better. As we have seen over the past few months, international monitors are leaving the country, scared for their well-being. The United Nations has threatened to revoke its international aid. If this pattern of violence continues without pursuit of a political solution, the international community may completely rescind its support.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge both sides to recommit to the process of sustaining peace in Sri Lanka. The devastating effect this is having on the civilian population of the country is not just. It is up to both parties to find a way to ensure the safety and security of all the people of Sri Lanka

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. OSBORNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO GOLF LEGEND BYRON NELSON

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order and address the House for 5 minutes.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today north Texas and indeed the country lost a great, great man, the legendary golfer and humanitarian Byron Nelson. He passed away at the age of 94 at his home in Roanoke, Texas, where he lived with his wife Peggy on 11 Straight Lane, a road that was named for his year of 1945 when he won 11 straight golf tournaments.

Like all Americans, I am saddened by the news of the death of Byron Nelson. He was indeed the best of men and he was a gentleman to all. His strength of character and generosity to others set him apart.

Mr. Nelson's accomplishment as a professional golfer are as impressive as his golf swing. There is a reason why he is the only PGA professional golfer that has a PGA tour named in his honor, the EDS Byron Nelson Championship.

Mr. Nelson won 54 career victories, including winning two Masters, two PGA championships and the U.S. Open in 1939. He is one of only two golfers to be named Male Athlete of the Year twice by the Associated Press, and the World Golf Hall of Fame honored Mr. Byron Nelson in 2004 by featuring an exhibit entitled, "Byron Nelson: A Champion . . . A Gentleman."

While Lord Byron has obtained the status as a world class athlete, it is his humanitarian efforts that are truly first class, Mr. Speaker. He is a champion for the underprivileged and has given his time, his talents and his funds to make this a better world for those who are not as well off.

Byron Nelson and the EDS Byron Nelson Championship have raised well over \$100 million for the Salesmanship Club Youth and Family Centers, a non-profit agency that provides education and mental health services for more than 2,700 children and their families in the greater Dallas area.

Additionally, the Byron and Louise Nelson Golf Endowment Fund has provided over \$1.5 million in endowment funds to Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas.

Another example of his service is his dedication to the Metroport Meals on Wheels which provides daily, home-delivered, hot lunches for the frail, elderly and chronically ill residents in his area around Roanoke, Texas, where he lived with his wife Peggy. Byron Nelson has been an active honorary chairman of that group since 1992.

Some of our local papers in the north Texas area talked about Byron Nelson in their on-line editions for tomorrow. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram quoted Byron Nelson, "I have not ever said that I want to live to this age or that age," he said. "I don't believe in doing that. I'm going to try and maintain myself in a way that I'm up and able to move about and participate in things going on in my life. My heart is good. My cholesterol's good."