

they need. As a matter of fact, the Chicago police records suggest that 75 percent of all the people that they arrest test positive for drug use.

If we could somehow or another reduce the use of drugs, crime statistics would go so far down until sometimes we would have a hard time finding them. There is a direct correlation between crime and drug use in America.

As a result of looking at this problem, I have become more and more a fan of what I call treatment on demand; that is, enough resources so that when individuals who are addicted decide that they are ready for treatment, that treatment is available to them and so that they do not have to wait 90 days or 60 days to get into a program, because in 90 days or 60 days or 30 days they may have decided that they do not want treatment anymore. So we lose the opportunity.

While again I commend Chairman SOUDER, Ranking Member CUMMINGS and certainly Chairman TOM DAVIS and Ranking Member HENRY WAXMAN for all of the attention that they have given, I hope that as we go into the new Congress in January that we can build upon the outstanding work that this subcommittee and the Committee on Government Reform has done and make certain that we have not only the resources available for law enforcement for prevention but that we also have enough resources available for treatment.

□ 1615

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time we have.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. SOUDER. Has the gentleman closed on the other side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. And the gentleman from Indiana has 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I just want to say this, Madam Speaker. One of the things that we were concerned about was our HIDTA programs, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas. When we saw the budget, the budget basically cut substantially the funds for HIDTA, and we in our subcommittee and in our committee have seen the great work of the HIDTA throughout our country and we were determined to make sure that they stayed intact and continued to do the jobs that they have done so effectively.

One of the good things about HIDTA is that they are able to bring together our Federal, our local, and our State law enforcement officers so they can work together. And, again, going back to our taxpayers' tax dollars, to use those dollars effectively and efficiently to fight drug violence and drug crimes, crimes related to drugs.

But as I sat and listened to Congressman DAVIS and certainly to Mr.

SOUDER, I could not help but be reminded of just about 4 months ago as I was standing in my district in a supermarket and a young man standing in front of me was talking to me saying he was looking for a job, and he pulled up his shirt and he showed me the barrel of a gun. And as he was standing there, he said, I am looking for a job because I simply do not want to continue to go around sticking up people to feed my drug habit.

That thing really shook me up, because when you have got somebody possibly committing two or three robberies a day, as he told me, that says a lot. And I think that we fail sometimes to understand how deep this problem is and how it goes against the very safety of all of our residents, no matter where they may live. And if there is anything that I have learned from being on this subcommittee, it is that there are no boundaries. There really are no boundaries with regard to drug addiction and the problem of drugs. One of the things that I know Mr. SOUDER will agree with me, when we got so much interest from our friends in the Congress who are seeing just a terrible problem with methamphetamines, they have come forth and they have been very, very helpful in helping us to figure out how to address not only the problems of methamphetamines, but the problems associated with heroin, associated with crack cocaine, with cocaine, and so many other drugs.

So I think that all of us have to understand that, no matter where we may live or who we may represent, that we all may have different problems but still we need to work together to address those problems in a way that is effective for all of us, because, again, we are trying to heal the Nation and heal those people who have again found themselves in the clutches of this horrible, horrible situation.

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

Mr. SOUDER. I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 6344, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6344, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL WILDLAND FIRE-FIGHTER CLASSIFICATION ACT

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5697) to provide for the appropriate designation of certain Federal positions involved in wildland fire suppression activities, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5697

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 "Federal Wildland Firefighter Classification Act".

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the administration of chapter 51 of title 5, United States Code, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall ensure that the official title assigned under such chapter to any class or other category of positions described in subsection (b) shall include the designation of "Wildland Firefighter" or words to that effect.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply in the case of any class or other category of positions that consists primarily or exclusively of forest technician positions, range technician positions, or any other category of positions the duties and responsibilities of which include significant wildland fire suppression activities.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) the terms "class" and "position" shall have the meanings set forth in section 5102 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) the terms "forest technician position", "range technician position", and "significant wildland fire suppression activities" shall have the meanings specified by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

SEC. 3. HAZARDOUS DUTY DIFFERENTIAL NOT AFFECTED.

Section 5545(d)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking all after "except" and inserting an em-dash and the following:

"(A) an employee in an occupational series covering positions for which the primary duties are wildland firefighting, as determined by the Office; and

"(B) in such other circumstances as the Office may by regulation prescribe; and".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOUDER. Madam 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 5697, the Federal Wildland Firefighter Classification Act, was introduced in June by Representatives RICHARD POMBO and JON PORTER to ensure that Federal wildland firefighters receive the recognition that they deserve in the Federal hiring process. Specifically, the legislation would designate employees who engage in firefighting duties as having the title "wildland firefighter" in Federal job classifications. The importance of this legislation is well documented in hearings

and testimony before several congressional committees. Also, we have witnessed the sacrifice these firefighters are willing to make to keep communities and their property safe.

Current wildland firefighter classification standards are far outdated and simply do not accurately reflect the all-risk duties performed by these brave men and women all year round. This legislation is the least we can do for these Federal wildland firefighters who lost their lives and those who continue to rehab from serious scarring and life-altering burns.

I urge all Members to join me today in supporting this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, last August, the Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Subcommittee held a hearing in Las Vegas on Federal firefighter compensation. In addition to pay, one of the concerns raised at the hearing by the Federal Wildland Fire Service Association was the classification of Federal wildland firefighters.

Federal wildland firefighters are classified as either general schedule or wage-grade employees of the Federal Government. However, many of them are placed in the occupational series called forestry technicians, range technicians, and biological science technicians that do not reference their firefighting duties. These current classifications do not accurately represent the work performed by these wildland firefighters. H.R. 5697 would correct that by redesignating forest and range technicians as Federal wildland firefighters. This bill changes the name but not the pay of those currently called wildland firefighters or technicians. H.R. 5697 is supported by the FWFS, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this bill, and yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5697, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2225

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at 10 o'clock and 25 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 and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 394. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a boundary study to evaluate the significance of the Colonel James Barrett Farm in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System as part of the Minute Man National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4416. An act to reauthorize permanently the use of penalty and franked mail in efforts relating to the location and recovery of missing children.

H.R. 5076. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2007 and 2008, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5132. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including in the National Park System certain sites in Monroe County, Michigan, relating to the Battles of the River Raisin during the War of 1812.

H.R. 5466. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

H.R. 5646. An act to study and promote the use of energy efficient computer servers in the United States.

H.R. 5782. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for enhanced safety and environmental protection in pipeline transportation, to provide for enhanced reliability in the transportation of the Nation's energy products by pipeline, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6342. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to expand eligibility for the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 497. Concurrent resolution to honor the memory of Arnold "Red" Auerbach.

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

H.R. 5946. An act to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to authorize activities to promote improved monitoring and compliance for high seas fisheries, or fisheries governed by international fishery management agreements, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6111. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the Tax Court may review claims for equitable innocent spouse relief and to suspend the running

on the period of limitations while such claims are pending.

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

S. 1876. An act to provide that attorneys employed by the Department of Justice shall be eligible for compensatory time off for travel under section 5550b of title 5, United States Code.

S. 4091. An act to provide authority for restoration of the Social Security Trust Funds from the effects of a clerical error, and for other purposes.

S. 4042. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit disruptions of funerals of members or former members of the Armed Forces.

The message also announced that the Senate agreed to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 843) "An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to combat autism through research, screening, intervention and education".

HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. NANCY PELOSI, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 7, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), amended by Division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901), I hereby reappoint Mr. Michael Wessel of Falls Church, Virginia, to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2008. His current term expires December 31, 2006.

In addition, I hereby appoint to that Commission Mr. Jeffrey L. Fiedler of Great Falls, Virginia, to fill the remainder of the term of Mr. George Becker, who is resigning effective December 31, 2006. The current term on which Mr. Fiedler succeeds Mr. Becker expires December 31, 2007.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
House Democratic Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM DEMOCRATIC LEADERS OF UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY