

Madam Speaker, for the sake of the 10th amendment and states' rights, I ask that all of my colleagues oppose this rule, and I urge the defeat of the underlying legislation, H.R. 4247.

Mr. CORDOZA. I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. FOXX. Madam 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT SUICIDE PLANE ATTACK ON IRS EMPLOYEES IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1127) expressing concern regarding the suicide plane attack on Internal Revenue Service employees in Austin, Texas.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1127

Whereas all Federal employees, and those from the Internal Revenue Service in particular, have experienced a terrible tragedy in the suicide plane attack on February 18, 2010;

Whereas Vernon Hunter, who lost his life in the terror attack, had 48 years of public service, including 20 years of serving in the United States Army and 2 tours in Vietnam;

Whereas Federal, State, and local officials have cooperated to respond promptly and professionally to the attack and provide assistance to Internal Revenue Service victims and families affected by the crash; and

Whereas Federal employees, from the Armed Forces to the Internal Revenue Service, serve their Nation with honor and commitment, and perform public service that benefits the entire Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) strongly condemns the terror attack perpetrated deliberately against Federal employees of the Internal Revenue Service in Austin, Texas;

(2) honors Vernon Hunter, a victim of the crash, Shane Hill, who suffered severe injuries, and all those who were injured for their service to our Nation;

(3) commends Internal Revenue Service employees for their dedication and public service;

(4) recognizes the heroic actions of the first responders, emergency services personnel, Internal Revenue Service employees, and citizens on the ground in Austin such as Robin De Haven whose actions minimized the loss of life; and

(5) rejects any statement or act that deliberately fans the flames of hatred or expresses sympathy for those who would attack public servants serving our Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 1127.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On February 18, the IRS family suffered a terrible tragedy. I rise today to express my deepest sympathies to the families of Vernon Hunter, Shane Hill, and the employees at the IRS in Austin, Texas. We as a Nation and as a people are much better than this. We should be better to each other. This type of attack is just wrong, and we must not tolerate violence against our public servants.

I understand that people may not like to pay their taxes, but we cannot take out our anger on IRS employees. They do not deserve this. The people who work at the Internal Revenue Service are mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters who work hard each and every day. They do their jobs, and they do them well. They perform a public service that benefits the entire Nation. This Congress is committed to the safety of each and every person who serves this Nation.

I want to thank the IRS Commissioner for the steps he has taken to enhance security at all IRS sites around the country. We will continue to make sure that the Internal Revenue Service has the resources to improve security at its offices.

I was moved by the many stories of people who reached out and helped each other during this terrible tragedy. Even in the face of chaos and violence, people reached out and helped each other. First responders, emergency personnel, employees, and other citizens showed great courage and compassion to minimize the loss of life. I thank them all and honor them today.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Like all my colleagues here in the House of Representatives, I was shocked and horrified by the tragedy that occurred at the IRS office in Austin, Texas, on February 18. I especially want to offer my condolences to the family of Vernon Hunter, who lost his life in this senseless attack. Mr. Hunter dedicated his life to serving his country, including 20 years in the U.S. Army and two tours in Vietnam. I stand with my colleagues today to honor his service and his memory.

We should also recognize the courage and heroism of those men and women, including IRS employees, first responders, and others, who responded to the attack to ensure that our country did not suffer even greater losses.

I would like to associate myself with the words of President Obama to the employees of the IRS when he said, and I quote, "I am thankful for your dedication, courage, and professionalism as we rebuild in Austin. And as you continue your work, we will do what is needed to ensure your safety. We are grateful for your service to this country. May God bless you and the United States of America."

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1330

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to yield such time as he may consume to my colleague and my friend, the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), a member of the Ways and Means Committee and a sponsor of the resolution.

Mr. DOGGETT. I thank the gentleman from Georgia and the gentleman from Louisiana for their important comments. The recent suicide attack in my hometown of Austin, Texas, on an IRS building was a horrible tragedy. I authored this resolution to honor those who were victims, to recognize the courage that was displayed by so many that day, and to condemn such cowardly acts of violence.

Seeing that building aflame after this premeditated suicide attack which was, in the words of Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell, "perpetrated in rage without any regard for the sanctity of human life," I was just amazed that not more of our neighbors were harmed. In large measure, this was the result of the valor and professionalism amidst the flames and the chaos of the Federal workers, others who came upon the scene, and our local first responders.

Leaders of these well-trained professionals who rose to the call of duty that day include our Austin Police Chief, Art Acevedo; our Fire Chief, Rhoda Mae Kerr; our EMS Director, Ernie Rodriguez; and Travis County HAZMAT Chief, Gary Warren who, with the Westlake Fire Department, was fortunately near the site of the attack and raced into action. And I know