

To make matters worse, contract security guards do not have arrest authority of any kind, so if incidents did occur they could often do little besides call the police instead of physically being able to address a threat themselves.

When, in the Fiscal Year 2010 budget, the Obama Administration proposed transferring FPS out of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and into the National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD), I held another Full Committee hearing to receive testimony as to whether this move would help or hinder reform to enhance FPS' performance.

At the November 2009 hearing, FPS and the leadership of NPPD promised to immediately begin reforms that would address the troubling GAO findings with the contract guard program.

In April, 2010, the Committee on Homeland Security held its third dedicated hearing on the state of FPS. At that hearing, GAO provided testimony on the contract guard program, and the question of whether it was time to rethink the Federal Protective Service's use of contract guards to protect some of our Nation's highest risk facilities.

Specifically, GAO recommended that FPS reassess how it protects Federal facilities, take a stronger role in overseeing contractor performance, and most importantly reassess the use of contract guards in the first place.

FPS responded to the GAO by noting they had increased the frequency of guard post inspections by 40 percent, and were in the process of implementing a multi-million dollar computer risk assessment program to streamline the process of guard post inspections and make them more uniform across the Nation. The computer program was not in use at the time of the hearing though, and still remains largely inoperable today.

In response, GAO stated that even with this new process, FPS was still too understaffed to perform adequate oversight of contractors and contract guards.

I would note that, at my request, GAO is currently performing an audit of the aforementioned computerized risk assessment and management program, known as RAMP.

Interesting, at the hearing, FPS claimed to have performed analysis of the cost savings that might be gained by full or partial conversion of contract guards to Federal positions, and had made the determination that the gains in security were not sufficient to warrant the expense.

Given that FPS lacks both a human capital plan and a current workforce analysis, FPS' contentions were somewhat dubious.

At the conclusion of the hearing, I was left unsatisfied that FPS was able or willing to undertake the necessary reforms. Thus, I came to believe that it would take legislative action to ensure that our Federal buildings had the security that Americans have the right to expect.

I directed my staff to work on legislation to tackle FPS' challenges in a comprehensive fashion.

OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATION

The "Federal Protective Service Improvement and Accountability Act of 2010" seeks to bolster FPS' management and diminish its over-reliance on contract guards thereby improving the overall security provided by FPS in many ways:

First, the bill will require FPS to increase the ranks of Federal Law Enforcement inspectors

it employs from the current number of about 800 to 1350. The increased presence of Federal law enforcement within Federal buildings, providing "boots on the ground" security expertise will fundamentally transform FPS.

Within the inspector workforce, the Federal Facility Security Officers shall serve the security expert function, responsible for performing the risk assessments, making security countermeasure recommendations, and performing the onsite inspections of security guard posts.

Complementing this effort will be the contributions of Federal Facility Law Enforcement Officers to address a serious need within Federal facilities for patrolling, performing law enforcement investigations, responding to crises, and exercising arrest authority when necessary.

This augmented inspector workforce—comprised of Federal law enforcement—will provide FPS, for the first time, with a core of specialized security personnel with the training and authority to foster change within the entire organization.

Second, the bill directs FPS to establish a dedicated contract oversight staff to monitor the contract guards. This would allieviate a major responsibility that was thrust upon FPS' law enforcement officers who, though lacking contract oversight knowledge, are expected to monitor contractor performance by contractors. Establishment of a specialized corps of contract oversight staff will have the added benefit of freeing up law enforcement officers to concentrate on their law enforcement duties full time.

Third, the bill will require the establishment of national minimum standards for the level of training and the certification of security guards.

This standard would directly alleviate the problem of different states and regions having contract guards with varying degrees of qualifications and training, despite being certified to act as security guards in their home states or regions.

Fourth, it expresses the sense of Congress that the security standards for Federal facilities established by the Interagency Security Committee, a Federal security advisory committee, and published in the document "Physical Security Criteria for Federal Facilities" become implemented for all Federal facilities for which they were issued. This would be another major step toward ensuring security at Federal facilities was uniform across the Nation.

Fifth, this bill sets up a 1 year pilot program to assess whether a Federal Facility Security Guard that is a Federal employee would do a better job protecting the highest risk federal facilities than a contract guard. GAO is charged with assessing the performance of the Federal Security Guards performing in the pilot.

In the event that the GAO finds their performance satisfactory, the Federal Facility Security Guard position created by the pilot would then become a permanent position at FPS. This pilot program is critical towards possibly addressing the problems with the contract security guard program that are all but endemic at this juncture.

FPS can no longer continue a patchwork approach to plugging security holes consistently found in the contract security guard program. This pilot will present Congress and FPS with a real world example of an alternative to contract guards that would instantly alleviate many concerns regarding the quality and legitimacy of security guard training and certification.

Sixth, this bill will require the highest risk Federal facilities to always maintain a sufficient number of persons with Federal law enforcement arrest authority so that they could respond to any crises that may occur with the necessary force and authority.

Seventh, this bill will require GAO to investigate the fee-funding system FPS utilizes to cover its operating costs. Numerous reports have linked this fee system, which bills tenant agencies for security primarily by a charge per the square footage of the facility, to hindering the progress of integration with DHS, as well as general reform, at FPS by hampering their ability to make decisions that require significant budgetary commitments.

CLOSING COMMENTS

The Federal Protective Service has a critical mission when it comes to this Nation's homeland security because it is a mission that directly protects Americans from potential harm. Yet since it was first moved into the Department of Homeland Security, FPS has been plagued with issues of mismanagement.

Some of these have been addressed, but the most serious issue to date has been the inability of the contract force, upon which FPS heavily relies, to provide adequate security at the entrances and exits to many highly populated and high risk Federal facilities.

This bill takes a comprehensive common-sense approach to addressing these security holes as quickly and responsibly as possible.

Simply put, FPS needs more officers, and this bill will give it to them. At the same time, FPS needs to find alternatives to its current contract-reliant approach to guarding facilities and this bill does just that by putting FPS on a path to building needed internal capacity to provide guard services.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the "Federal Protective Service Improvement and Accountability Act of 2010" and work with me to get passage of this critical homeland security legislation.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF APPLE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the hard work of a group of educators from the United States and Canada who have provided their services to the people of Lithuania for 20 years.

The American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education, better known as APPLE, is marking its twentieth anniversary this year. APPLE was founded in 1990, as Lithuania emerged from the Soviet Union's iron curtain, for the purpose of supporting education reform in Lithuania as part of that nation's transition back to democracy.

APPLE is a non-profit which partners with the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science to train Lithuanian teachers in subjects ranging from agriculture, civics and geography to art and music. APPLE has grown from its first two week seminar in one city in 1991 into a program which conducted an entire summer program in nine cities throughout the country in 2009.

I want to join with the other Members of this House in congratulating the American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education on

celebrating its twentieth anniversary and to wish them many more years of success in bringing the gift of education and democracy to the Lithuanian people.

IN HONOR OF ANDY LINENBERG
AND JACQUIE HUYNNAH-LINENBERG

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Andy Linenberg and Mrs. Jacquie Huynah-Linenberg, students at the Rutgers School of Law in Camden, New Jersey, who spent their 2010 spring break volunteering for the Housing Unit at Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS).

Mr. Linenberg and Mrs. Huynah-Linenberg participated in the APIL (Association for Public Interest Law) Alternative Spring Break and provided pro bono legal service to an elderly woman who had lived in a public housing facility in New Orleans. She was facing eviction but thanks to Mr. Linenberg and Mrs. Huynah-Linenberg's hard work the woman was able to avoid eviction and remain in her home.

Mr. Linenberg received his Juris Doctor in May 2010 and by working for this deserving client, he reconfirmed his dream of improving the lives of others by helping them enforce their rights.

Mrs. Huynah-Linenberg earned her MBA degree and plans on returning to New Orleans to provide legal support for citizens still coping with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Andrew Linenberg and Mrs. Jacquie Huynah-Linenberg for their efforts in promoting and advancing justice to those who need it most.

HONORING BOB WEISMAN

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob Weisman's 30 years of service to Palm Beach County. Currently the County Administrator, Bob has devoted his professional life to public service and bettering the south Florida community.

Shortly after graduating college, Bob began his career civil engineer for Palm Beach County quickly rising through the ranks and became the Director of Development Engineering under the Water Utilities Department in 1981. In 1985, Bob was once again promoted to become the Assistant Director of the Water Utilities Department and, after only 6 months, became the Director. In 1988, Bob joined the county administration and was named the Assistant County Administrator, eventually becoming the Senior Assistant County Administrator. In 1995, Bob became the Palm Beach County Administrator.

As the County Administrator, Bob has been charged with the implementation of a \$4 billion budget and oversight of over 6,000 county employees. Together with the over 30 county administration departments, Bob is entrusted

with providing quality services, programs, and information to the over 1 million residents of Palm Beach County.

Under Bob's guidance, Palm Beach County has enjoyed supervisory and fiscal stability making Palm Beach County one of the fastest growing counties in the Nation.

I would like to congratulate Bob for his 30 years of service to the Florida community. I am honored to have his friendship and can truly say that Palm Beach County is better place because of the hard work and dedication of Bob Weisman.

HONORING NEA JAZZ MASTER
GERALD WILSON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, legendary jazz artist Gerald Wilson will be honored at the 2010 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference Jazz Issue Forum and Concert. This event will take place on Thursday, September 16, 2010, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, in Washington, D.C. The concert will feature selections from Mr. Wilson's masterwork "Detroit," performed by the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra. While not a native of Detroit, Mr. Wilson was raised in my home town. He has had an outstanding career that deserves the recognition of this body. Let me share some of the highlights from his biography.

Gerald Wilson is a premier composer, trumpeter, arranger, bandleader and educator. His work, during his rich and varied seven-decade career, has supported some of the greatest names in jazz including Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles, Bobby Darin, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Benny Carter, Nancy Wilson, and Sarah Vaughn, as well as a scorer for motion pictures and television shows such as Otto Preminger's "Anatomy Of A Murder" and ABC's variety program "The Red Foxx Show." Wilson also scored a top 40 pop hit with El Chicano's version of his song "Viva Torado" in 1971. Recently, Wilson was in the studio recording new material for his sixth release for the Mack Avenue Records label, a follow up to 2009's "Detroit."

The perennially inexhaustible bandleader will be included in two upcoming documentaries; the first about Cab Calloway produced by ARTE France and expected to air in America on PBS, and the other about Los Angeles' storied Million Dollar Theater.

Wilson has earned seven Grammy Nominations, a recent NAACP Image Award nomination, a NARAS President's Merit Award, top Big Band and Composer/Arranger honors in the Downbeat International Critics Poll, the National Endowment for the Arts' American Jazz Masters Fellowship, two American Jazz Awards for Best Arranger and Best Big Band, and currently his masterpieces are ensconced at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. His love for jazz and his 30 year educational career in teaching music also earned him the Teacher of the Year award at UCLA in 2008. Most recently, The Gerald Wilson Orchestra's "Detroit" (Mack Avenue, 2009) won "Record of the Year" at the 2010 Jazz Week Awards.

Despite earning such various accolades throughout his career, his road to success hasn't always been easy. At 91 years old, Gerald Wilson has struggled through more than 9 decades of opposition to contribute to the fight for civil rights and to share his passion for music with the world. Born in 1918 into a hotbed of racial tension in Shelby, Mississippi, Wilson was sent by his mother to live with family in the more tepid Detroit, where his musical talents afforded him the rare opportunity to attend the performing arts school, Cass Tech High School (a school that was second only to Juilliard for musical education at the time). As Wilson will tell you, this is where his musical career truly began.

By the age of 26 Wilson had toured the United States with Jimmie Lunceford's band, served time in the Navy during World War II, and wrote and played trumpet for Benny Carter and Les Hite before starting his own successful band, The Gerald Wilson Orchestra.

After reaching commercial success in the late '40s and marrying his Mexican-American soul mate, Josefina Villasenor Wilson, Wilson's passion for cultural immersion came to life both emotionally and creatively. Wilson began composing for more than half a dozen professional bullfighters. These masterpieces bonded Wilson in a lifelong kinship with the bullfighting community and afforded him the opportunity to be a member of the exclusive international bullfighting club, Los Aficionados des Los Angeles, and then honored with an award for contributing something positive to the world of "tauramaquia" (the world of the bull fight).

Hopping from one creative outlet to the next, in 1969 after intense study of his own on the art of classical music, Wilson was honored to receive an invitation from Zubin Mehta to compose a number for the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.

Wilson's passion to incorporate his art into his selfless crusade for civil rights has remained paramount in his life and has touched the lives in countless cultures and countries around the world. When asking this humble legend about his great successes, Wilson, who will be 92 years old this September, responds with sincere humility, "I just try to be a person worthy of being a part of this great art form."

Madam Speaker, I am very proud of the accomplishments of Gerald Wilson. I urge all Members to acquaint themselves with this great artist and his music.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH
AMENDMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which enshrined into law on August 26, 1920, the right of American women to vote. It is with deep admiration and respect that I pay tribute today to the brave women in our history, particularly Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony, whose courage and determination blazed a trail in the fight for women's equality.