

1955 (2 U.S.C. 125), the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to pay, from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives—

(1) a gratuity to the widow of Detective John Michael Gibson of the United States Capitol Police in the amount of \$51,866.00; and

(2) a gratuity to the widow of Private First Class Jacob Joseph Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police in the amount of \$47,280.00.

(b) TREATMENT AS GIFT.—Each gratuity paid under subsection (a) shall be held to have been a gift.

**SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITOL POLICE MEMORIAL FUND.**

It is the sense of Congress that there should be established under law a United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund for the surviving spouse and children of members of the United States Capitol Police who are slain in the line of duty.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H. CON. RES. 310 AND 311**

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives H. Con. Res. 310 and 311, the resolutions be deemed agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank the Senators for their attention to these resolutions. I am pleased that we are going to have an appropriate memorial ceremony tomorrow to honor these two fallen policemen. They represent the very best of those that serve our country and work with us in the Senate, from our personal staffs, to the floor staff, to the officers of the Senate, to the policemen, the people throughout these Capitol buildings.

They certainly did their job last week, and the country and we owe them a personal debt of gratitude. As I said this morning when we opened the Chamber, we see them every day. And we get to know them personally. They are part of our family. And I have sensed today that every Senator and every person I have talked to has a sense of deep sympathy and sorrow for this event.

We will take every precaution to make sure that the Capitol is secure, but that it remains the people's body and the people have access to it. I also have asked Senator DASCHLE to join me in designating a Senator on both sides to make sure that in fact, the officers' families are appropriately cared for so that we can take a look at what benefits they are entitled to and what happens with their memorial fund. We will make a decision and we will report to the rest of the Senate about how to proceed in that area if there is a need for it.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

**TRIBUTE TO SENATOR FRIST**

Mr. DASCHLE. I also note that we all owe a debt of gratitude to the Senator from Tennessee, Senator FRIST, for seizing the moment in his responsibility, first as a physician, and second as a Senator, to come on to the scene as he did. He served us and those victims very, very well on behalf of, I know, the entire Senate. We thank him for that.

I yield the floor.

**IMPLEMENTING THE ONE-CALL LAW**

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today I want to advise my colleagues on the implementation of the one-call notification ("call-before-you-dig") law. This legislation, which was enacted into law as part of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21), has taken almost three Congresses to complete. However, this Congress was able to accomplish the goal, thanks to bipartisan support and lots of cooperation among the affected entities: pipeline, telecommunications, cable and electric utility companies, state one-call systems and numerous others of good will.

Last week the Department of Transportation's Office of Pipeline Safety announced a public meeting will be held on August 25-26. The purpose of this meeting is to begin organizing a process to collect information on the suggested "best practices" in one-call notification. All affected parties—underground facility operators, excavation contractors, railroads, one-call centers, states and municipalities—should participate in this meeting which will be a joint government-industry effort to bring together the best information on one-call notification practices, techniques, technologies and enforcement processes. Information on these best practices would then be shared among the various state one-call programs, in order to improve performance. The ink is barely dry on the law, and already implementation rule-making has begun. This is great because this is all about the public's safety.

This is enlightened federalism: the federal government working together with the states and the private sector to mutually decide how to protect our nation's vital underground infrastructure. The federal government does not dictate to state and local governments, nor does it try to fit private companies into some prescriptive regulatory scheme. That never works. Results come by working together.

I congratulate the Senate Appropriations Committee for including a modest but sufficient amount of support for implementing the one-call bill in the FY 1999 Transportation Appropriations bill. I hope the House appropriators will follow this lead and an agreement can be reached in conference for funding to be available in the coming fiscal year.

The one-call bill, which was enacted into law, provides that general revenues are to be used to improve our one-call systems. Realizing there is such a long list of beneficiaries from better one-call notification, this is only fair. I expect the appropriations process to reflect this principle of fairness and to fund this program from general revenues.

We have all seen the tragedies and near tragedies that can occur when accidents happen at underground facilities. These accidents are preventable, and this law provides the surest way to present these accidents. I urge all affected parties to join in participating in the August 25-26 meeting to begin the cooperative, responsible process envisioned in the one-call law.

Mr. President, I promised my good friend, former Senator Bill Bradley, when he left the Senate that his colleagues would continue the legislative effort to enact a one-call notification bill. This was accomplished this year. The terrible 1994 accident in Edison, New Jersey, showed Congress the kind of accident which must be prevented. Now a law has been enacted that can do the job. Let's continue to work together to carry it out.

**PUERTO RICO STATUS LEGISLATION**

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, 100 years ago this past Saturday—July 25, 1898—U.S. Major General Nelson Miles and his troops arrived on Puerto Rico's shores to liberate the island from tyranny. On that historic occasion, he declared that the United States came "bearing the banner of freedom . . . the fostering arm of a nation of free people, whose greatest power is in justice and humanity to all those living within its fold."

One hundred years after those valiant actions and eloquent words, the nearly four million people of Puerto Rico—excuse me, the United States citizens of Puerto Rico—continue to wait for the fulfillment of that promise of justice and humanity. For the last century, they have been denied the most fundamental right of a free people: the right to choose their own political destiny.

Mr. President, enough is enough. In the last 100 years, Puerto Ricans have fought for freedom as part of the U.S. armed forces. Through their vibrant culture and tireless spirit, they have made invaluable and lasting contributions to American democracy. But they have never had a real opportunity to exercise that freedom fully or enjoy the complete benefits of living in that democracy. Congress must right that wrong in 1998.

Make no mistake: Puerto Ricans are ready for this opportunity. In its quest to gain the right of political self-determination, Puerto Rico has on three occasions held local plebiscites to express preferences for the political options of statehood, independence, or commonwealth. But since these votes were not