

consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, for the past five years I have struggled with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to help the citizens of Houston. Houston is the fourth largest city—yet for a long time, they have lacked a full service HUD office. Out of the ten largest metropolitan areas, Houston was the only one without a fully serviceable HUD office.

Over the past five years I have worked with HUD and have received various verbal commitments and assurances that Houston would receive the necessary HUD staff and programs to be an effective agency to help the citizens of Houston. We've made some progress, but we still have a ways to go.

In past years, I have considered offering an amendment to this bill to require better HUD service for Houston residents. This year I will again try to work with the agency to ensure proper services for the city. This would include establishing an Office of Community Planning and Development, which would provide technical assistance and monitoring of state and local entities receiving federal funding to assist with elderly and disabled housing loans, CDBG, and funds for Houston's Enhanced Enterprise Community. This service is particularly important because of the city's growing population. Unfortunately, because there is no full service HUD office in the city, quality housing opportunities have not keep pace with the growth.

When I go back to my district and I talk with seniors, families and local officials, one of their greatest concerns is housing for the elderly. No one wants to see our elderly without shelter. An Office of Community Planning and Development would aid the citizens of Houston to gain access and administer funds to renovate, locate, and build elderly housing. This office also oversees funding and provides technical assistance to our Enhanced Enterprise Community.

HUD came up with a good idea to provide funds to local governments to help their economically disadvantaged areas through Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.

Through tax breaks to businesses and access to federal funds and a plan drawn up by local communities, HUD hoped to revitalize disadvantaged areas. Houston has an Enhanced Enterprise Community, and we have access to two hundred million dollars to help revitalize parts of Houston. It would be a shame to see that money go to waste without proper support and assistance by HUD.

The nearest HUD office that offers this service is in Ft. Worth Texas, which is over two hundred miles away. My constituents have had to call to Ft. Worth to get someone from CPD to come down to Houston to check out a faulty foundation. Most of the time the response from Ft. Worth is that they don't have the money in their budget for travel or they have to wait for years for a response.

The citizens of Houston deserve better than having to call HUD in Ft. Worth, which is over 200 miles away, to get an inspector who can not travel because of budgetary constraints.

I still do not understand why the fourth largest city in the nation does not have all the HUD programs to serve its citizens.

When we first started looking into upgrading the Houston HUD field office, we received assurances from former Secretary Cisneros and now Secretary Cuomo that the Houston office would receive all available programs.

Without these offices who is going to monitor these programs, who is going to check for fraud, waste, and abuse. Who is going to help the citizens of Houston provide for their housing needs. If this critical change isn't made soon, I am concerned that more residents will be denied services they are entitled to.

While I am not offering an amendment this year, I am looking forward to working with the committee and administration to see that this issue can finally be resolved.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart I come before you today. On Friday, July 24, we lost two members of our congressional family: Capitol Police Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson.

Although tragic, these men died in service to their nation, in service to us. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

With faith and trust in God and the help of family and friends the Chestnut and Gibson families will endure this seemingly unbearable time. I hope that the families of these two men—genuine American heroes—take comfort in knowing that their husbands, their fathers, their brothers, their sons, did not die in vain. By laying down their lives, these two men upheld our most cherished principles of liberty and democracy. I speak for all Americans when I say I am grateful for and honored by their courage, service and sacrifice.

While we mourn their death, we also celebrate the lives of Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson. All Americans can rest assured that their freedom and the future of this great land remain intact because Officers Chestnut and Gibson died preserving liberty so that we may survive in freedom. We all are forever indebted to them.

On behalf of the people of the Second District of Illinois, I thank Officers Chestnut and Gibson for giving the ultimate sacrifice so that all Americans can sleep tonight under a security blanket of freedom. Their earthly lives may have drawn to a close, but their lives with God are eternal. Psalm 30 reminds us that "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning."

YEAR 2000 PROBLEM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the year 2000 will herald the start of a new millennium. How-

ever, if our country doesn't address the Year 2000 or Y2K technology problem, the millennium may begin with numerous disruptions. Meeting the challenges presented by the Year 2000 conversion will require the commitment of significant resources from both the public and private sectors. The federal government, in particular, must take a leadership role. The federal government is fixing its own systems and must facilitate private sector conversion.

Today Mr. HORN and Mrs. MORELLA have introduced the "Year 2000 Information Disclosure Act". I am cosponsoring this bipartisan legislation which will serve to encourage businesses to share information on solving the Y2K bug. This legislation protects from liability claims those who in good faith share information on solving the Y2K problem.

Without timely sharing of data on the Y2K fix, many small-to-medium size companies may not meet the deadline of Jan. 1, 2000. This could have serious repercussions for the economy. Small to medium size businesses who face disruptions from the Y2K bug may simply not make it because they may not be able to continue business. Many business sectors are dependent on each other. They exchange information electronically every day. For this reason, it's crucial to limit liability for sharing information on Y2K solutions.

Currently, the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion has determined that concern over liability is impeding the transfer of information on the Y2K bug between companies. The "Year 2000 Information Disclosure Act" is of national importance. I encourage this body to act on this legislation as soon as possible.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to commend my colleagues for joining me in passing significant changes to the H.R. 4194, The Veterans Administration (VA)—Housing and Urban Development (HUD)—Independent Agencies Appropriations bill to remove restrictive language regarding the Brownfields initiative. Continued federal support and funding for this initiative is critical to the revitalization of our nation's urban core. In my district, Kansas City, Missouri, and our friends across the state line in Kansas City, Kansas, have joined to form a unique and innovative Brownfields partnership. This bi-state junction has not only received an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields grant in 1996, but recently was designated one of only 16 cities in the nation to become a Showcase Community.

Redevelopment already has begun to revitalize our area. The Westside Business Park has been fighting for many years to hurdle the environmental constraints that had stunted its economic growth. Through the Brownfields Initiative the shackles have been broken and today more than \$14 million dollars in HUD Economic Development Initiative Money has been secured for assistance. Union Station built in 1914 is one of the city's greatest historical assets in need of rejuvenation for reuse as a transit, cultural, and commercial center. Yet \$4 million dollars in asbestos abatement must occur before the dream of restoration and reuse can become a reality. Without the Kansas City Brownfields Initiative this would not be possible.

These stories only mark the beginning. The resources needed to accomplish these tremendous tasks throughout the country can only be accessed if all the government agencies continue as a team to help the blighted abandoned warehouses, gas stations, and parking lots that face environmental hardships in order to turn into the schools, businesses, and recreational areas that our neighborhoods need and deserve.

I again applaud my colleagues for realizing it is necessary to assist the Brownfields Initiative for the sake of our nation's economic growth.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Jacob Chestnut and Detective John Gibson, and to honor the sacrifice they made for their country last Friday afternoon. These two dedicated Capitol Police force officers never hesitated for one second when faced with a situation where the lives of others were at risk. They had been trained for such an event and without pause sprang into action and fulfilled their duty.

These men are indeed heroes, in every sense of the word. But, they are ordinary men, with families and friends who mourn their passing. While we have seen in the last few days how dedicated they were to their jobs, we have also learned of how caring they were in their homes and neighborhoods. Testimony after testimony from friends and loved ones has shown us the high regard these men were held in their "civilian" lives. We have seen photos of the prized garden "J.J." kept and whose bounty he shared with all. We have learned that John Gibson kept an eye on his neighborhood and made sure all was right. For a police officer, constant vigilance is the way of life and both of these men lived that credo.

Friday was no exception. As the gunman burst into the Capitol Building through the detector, Officer Chestnut immediately knew trouble was at hand and without hesitation took action. Unfortunately, his assailant had a split second on him and had his gun pulled. Detective Gibson heard the gunshots and

knew immediately what the sound was. He was in the immediate vicinity of several staff members and he took action to put himself between them and the danger at hand. It ultimately took the lives of these two officers, but the lives of many others were spared because of the selfless acts by these two officers.

No words can comfort their families. No words can change the events of last Friday. No words can make these two men come walking through the door. Our words can only serve as some solace to their loved ones. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson will long live in our consciousness, and in our hearts. Time may ease the sharpness of the pain of their loss, but, I say to their families, they will never be forgotten.

They are, now and forever, heroes of America's democracy.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4059,
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues for their support of the Military Construction Appropriations Act. This is a bill for appropriations of military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999.

Our military is the hegemon of the globe. We boast of having the strongest fighting force in the world, yet our soldiers go home every evening to homes that are simply not acceptable or safe. I commend the members of this House for their dedication to the men and women in our Armed Services.

I believe this piece of legislation will make positive adjustments for the living conditions of our military personnel. I do understand that there is much more yet to do, however, I commend the Subcommittee for their outstanding efforts considering the means we were given to work with. I have personally seen the poor and unsafe living and working conditions we subject our soldiers to both here in the U.S. and abroad. The funds this House approved last night will go a long way in addressing many of these needs.

Mr. Speaker, this bill goes much deeper than just appropriating funds, this legislation will keep the people who protect and serve our country safe.

IN HONOR OF THE HULETT ORE
UNLOADERS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important contribution that Hulett ore unloaders have made to mechanical engineering. This year marks the 100th anniversary

of the invention of the Hulett ore unloaders.

Hulett ore unloaders have played a significant role in the industrial history of Cleveland, Ohio. For over 40 years, men had to manually unload ore coming in from the Lake Superior region. After the first shipment in 1852, the men of Cleveland had to manually unload about two tons of ore. A 300 ton shipment could take a week to unload.

George Hulett's invention of the Hulett ore unloader revolutionized the shipping process of iron ore by making it a less timely and less costly process. It gave men a break from hard labor and allowed them to enhance their mechanical skills. These skills in turn made them more employable and more capable to take care of their families and provide them with the necessities of a good home and a decent education. Hulett ore unloaders fostered the developments of steel mills and factories throughout the Great Lakes region, creating jobs and industrial progress along the way.

This year the American Society of Mechanical Engineers will designate the last four Hulett ore unloaders as historical landmarks. On behalf of the Congress of the United States I stand today in recognition of George Hulett and his outstanding contribution to the engineering world.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, many years ago a poet eulogized the sacrifice of hundreds of young men. The poet was Tennyson. The poem was the "Charge of the Light Brigade." In this famous verse, Tennyson gave answer to those who wondered why so many young men would give so much. "Theirs not to make reply," Tennyson explained. "Theirs not to reason why. Theirs but to do and die."

The price of freedom has never been cheap. But in America, there have always been those willing to meet the demand, bear the burden, and pay the price to keep our nation free.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that America will remain the land of the free only as long as it is the home of the brave. Andrew Jackson once said that one man with courage is a majority. Last Friday afternoon, not one but two courageous leaders formed a supermajority—and thereby saved the lives of others.

When the moment of crisis arose last week, Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson were not found wanting. They were there. They responded. And they gave their lives.

The thin blue line held firm last Friday—thanks to two heroes. Like the men of Tennyson's tribute, their sacrifice was complete. It was theirs to respond. It is ours to remember. Mr. Speaker, I hope America never forgets that freedom isn't free. And I know that the prayers and thoughts of every American are with the Chestnut and Gibson family.

May God Bless them. And May God Bless America.