

COMMENDING COURAGE AND PROFESSIONALISM FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF ANTHRAX

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 342, S. Res. 187.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 187) commending the staffs of Members of Congress, the Capitol Police, the Office of the Attending Physician and his health care staff, and other members of the Capitol Hill community for their courage and professionalism during the days and weeks following the release of anthrax in Senator DASCHLE's office.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Governmental Affairs without amendment and with amendments to the preamble, as follows:

[Omit the part in black brackets and insert the part printed in italic.]

Whereas there are approximately 30,000 legislative branch employees who work on Capitol Hill including approximately 6,200 Senate employees, 11,500 House employees, and 12,800 staff from other entities;

Whereas the Capitol Complex consists of approximately 285 acres comprised of 3 Senate office buildings, 3 House office buildings, 2 House annex buildings, 3 Library of Congress buildings, and several other facilities;

Whereas on October 15, 2001, a letter containing anthrax spores was opened in Senator Daschle's office;

Whereas approximately 6,000 individuals were tested for exposure to anthrax and 28 of those individuals tested positive;

Whereas approximately 1000 individuals received a 60-day supply of antibiotics as a precautionary measure;

Whereas the House of Representatives closed the Rayburn and Cannon House Office Buildings for 7 days and the Longworth House Office building for 19 days;

[Whereas the Senate closed the Russell Senate Office Building for 6 days, the Dirksen Senate Office Building for 8 days, and the Hart Senate Office Building remains closed;]

*Whereas the Senate closed the Russell Senate Office Building for 6 days, the Dirksen Senate Office Building for 8 days, and the Hart Senate Office Building for 96 days;*

Whereas during the closure of the Senate and House Office Buildings, Members and staff were forced to find alternative office space or to work from their homes;

[Whereas Members and staff whose offices are located in the Hart Senate Office Building continue to utilize alternative office space, including office space donated by other Members;]

*Whereas Members and staff whose offices are located in the Hart Senate Office Building utilized alternative office space, including office space donated by other Members;*

Whereas Senate, House, and support staff continued and still continue to perform their duties and serve the public with courage and professionalism in spite of the threat of anthrax exposure;

Whereas Capitol Hill police officers have worked 12 hour shifts in response to the Sep-

tember 11, 2001, attacks and have been working additional overtime due to anthrax contamination in the Capitol Complex to ensure the safety of Members, staff, and visitors within the Capitol Complex; and

Whereas the release of anthrax in Senator Daschle's office, and the contamination of 2 Senate office buildings and 1 House office building, has further disrupted the daily routines of Congressional Members and their staffs and caused frustration due to dislocated offices: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That the Senate—*

(1) commends the staffs of Members of Congress, the Capitol Police, the Office of the Attending Physician and his health care staff, and other members of the Capitol Hill community for their courage, professionalism, and dedication to serving the public in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, attacks and the release of anthrax in Senator Daschle's office;

(2) recognizes the Congressional leadership, Congressional employees, the Capitol Police, and the Office of the Attending Physician and the health care professionals in his office, in particular, who by their quick actions and early intervention prevented actual cases of anthrax within the Capitol Complex; and

(3) requests that the President recognize the courage and professionalism of Congressional staff, the Capitol Police, and other members of the Capitol Hill community for their public service in continuing to do the public's business in defiance of terrorist attacks.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is late tonight, but I want to underline this resolution. The staff did tremendous work. I can remember the first morning after they found the letter containing anthrax. Everyone was very professional.

I also want to make sure everyone understands the great work that was done by the Secretary of the Senate and the Sergeant at Arms, Jeri Thomson and General Lenhardt, respectively. Their actions were exemplary. General Lenhardt had only briefly been working for the Senate. He was faced immediately with 9-11 and then this anthrax situation. His being a general has certainly paid us dividends. He really knew how to react under fire.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the amendments to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table without intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 187) was agreed to.

The amendments to the preamble were agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 187

Whereas there are approximately 30,000 legislative branch employees who work on Capitol Hill including approximately 6,200 Senate employees, 11,500 House employees, and 12,800 staff from other entities;

Whereas the Capitol Complex consists of approximately 285 acres comprised of 3 Senate office buildings, 3 House office buildings, 2 House annex buildings, 3 Library of Congress buildings, and several other facilities;

Whereas on October 15, 2001, a letter containing anthrax spores was opened in Senator Daschle's office;

Whereas approximately 6,000 individuals were tested for exposure to anthrax and 28 of those individuals tested positive;

Whereas approximately 1000 individuals received a 60-day supply of antibiotics as a precautionary measure;

Whereas the House of Representatives closed the Rayburn and Cannon House Office Buildings for 7 days and the Longworth House Office building for 19 days;

Whereas the Senate closed the Russell Senate Office Building for 6 days, the Dirksen Senate Office Building for 8 days, and the Hart Senate Office Building for 96 days;

Whereas during the closure of the Senate and House Office Buildings, Members and staff were forced to find alternative office space or to work from their homes;

Whereas Members and staff whose offices are located in the Hart Senate Office Building utilized alternative office space, including office space donated by other Members;

Whereas Senate, House, and support staff continued and still continue to perform their duties and serve the public with courage and professionalism in spite of the threat of anthrax exposure;

Whereas Capitol Hill police officers have worked 12 hour shifts in response to the September 11, 2001, attacks and have been working additional overtime due to anthrax contamination in the Capitol Complex to ensure the safety of Members, staff, and visitors within the Capitol Complex; and

Whereas the release of anthrax in Senator Daschle's office, and the contamination of 2 Senate office buildings and 1 House office building, has further disrupted the daily routines of Congressional Members and their staffs and caused frustration due to dislocated offices: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That the Senate—*

(1) commends the staffs of Members of Congress, the Capitol Police, the Office of the Attending Physician and his health care staff, and other members of the Capitol Hill community for their courage, professionalism, and dedication to serving the public in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, attacks and the release of anthrax in Senator Daschle's office;

(2) recognizes the Congressional leadership, Congressional employees, the Capitol Police, and the Office of the Attending Physician and the health care professionals in his office, in particular, who by their quick actions and early intervention prevented actual cases of anthrax within the Capitol Complex; and

(3) requests that the President recognize the courage and professionalism of Congressional staff, the Capitol Police, and other members of the Capitol Hill community for their public service in continuing to do the public's business in defiance of terrorist attacks.