

of the World Trade Center collapse, and other fire safety issues, in an attempt to provide the necessary research for future building safety codes. NIST is the premier federal laboratory for research in building design and safety, and is uniquely positioned to fully understand the World Trade Center disaster and thereby prevent future collapses.

While I applaud my colleagues for their efforts on moving this important bill, I also caution them that our work may not be done. As the investigations continue, NIST may uncover more questions about the deficiencies of our building designs. They may also discover gaps in our knowledge. New studies and new facilities may be necessary to fill these voids, and thereby may require a new commitment from us. Passage of H.R. 4687 is a very important step toward greater knowledge and better understanding of the events that changed all our lives. I urge your support of this legislation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 4687, The National Construction Safety Team Act of 2002. I am pleased with the outcome of our work on the Science Committee in addressing in a timely fashion, a problem highlighted in the wake of the events of last 9/11. In just a year we already have before us a piece of legislation that will greatly enhance the safety of the next generation of buildings, and save many lives.

Every experience, no matter how horrific, presents an opportunity to learn. Many lives were lost last year, the two moments that jets crashed into the World Trade Center Buildings 1 and 2. However, much of the devastation occurred over the next hour, as people became trapped in the building, exposed to fire and smoke, and eventually as the buildings collapsed. Although, our first responders made heroic efforts, and did an excellent job at rising to the challenge of this unprecedented attack—there is always room for improvement. Also, although the World Trade Center was an architectural marvel, perhaps there were design changes that could have been incorporated that would have saved lives.

Even as the healing is taking place, we must look back carefully and objectively at the events that took place, and look forward to implement plans which might prevent such catastrophic loss from occurring again.

The National Construction Safety Team Act gives responsibility to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to dispatch teams of experts within 48 hours after major building disasters. The team will determine the likely technical cause of building failures. They will also evaluate procedures used for evacuation and emergency responses. Then, the team will recommend specific changes to building codes, standards and practices, and to emergency response and evacuation procedures. The team will make regular briefings to the public during ongoing investigations, to keep the public apprised of developments. Implementation of the final recommendations will make our nation's buildings safer and people more secure.

The bill strikes an excellent balance between allowing the team to be efficient and effective—to access the site, subpoena evidence, etc.—and the need to stay out of the way of search and rescue attempts that may also be ongoing.

Obviously, the first implementation of this bill would be a comprehensive review of the

World Trade Center collapse. NIST has already started its follow-on investigation, with \$16 million transferred from FEMA. This bill (H.R. 4687) will provide NIST with the ability to subpoena data, if necessary, to augment its current investigation. The citizens of New York deserve such a deep and thoughtful approach.

But this bill is not only a "World Trade Center Bill." Teams will be organized and prepared to respond within 48 hours of any major building failure that involves significant loss of lives, or the danger of such loss. I hope that such a system could also help us learn from, and better prepare for natural disasters as we saw in Houston during Tropical Storm Allison in 2001. Flooding led to the destruction of thousands of homes and buildings, and the loss of 41 lives nationwide. Hospitals, such as that at Baylor College of Medicine, suffered millions of dollars in damages, setting research back years.

One young woman who died in Houston, Kristie Tautenhahn, was in a building that was rapidly flooding. A voice came over the intercom, informing employees that the underground garage was filling up with water, and people should go down and move their cars. Kristie, a 42-year old proofreader in a law firm got trapped in an elevator on her way down to the garage, and drowned soon after.

Tragic events, like the death of Ms. Tautenhahn or the flood damage of Baylor probably would not trigger the kind of investigations that this bill provides for. However, it seems that the work of investigative teams created by this bill, could provide valuable information which may bring about smarter building codes, to prevent such failures, and better strategies of getting the appropriate warnings and evacuation information to potential victims of disaster.

H.R. 4687 is a great strike toward a more comprehensive national strategy for predicting, preventing, and mitigating damage due to disasters of all sorts. It is a proactive, preemptive type strategy that could save lives and money. I am pleased with the Science Committee's leadership on such issues. It compliments well other legislation emerging from the Science Committee, such as the Inland Flooding Bill that I worked on with my colleague from North Carolina BOB ETHERIDGE, which will help predict and prevent damage from cyclone-related flooding. We are turning away from just putting out fires, and toward understanding our vulnerabilities, and trying prevention. It is the right way to go.

I urge my colleagues to support the National Construction Safety Team Act 2002.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 4687.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair de-

clares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Con. Res. 435, by the yeas and nays;

H. R. 4102, by the yeas and nays; and H.R. 5333, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

CANDACE NEWMAKER RESOLUTION OF 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 435.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILL-RAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 435, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 0, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 388]

YEAS—397

Abercrombie	Biggert	Camp
Ackerman	Bilirakis	Cannon
Aderholt	Bishop	Cantor
Akin	Blumenauer	Capito
Allen	Blunt	Capps
Andrews	Boehert	Capuano
Armey	Boehner	Cardin
Baca	Bonilla	Carson (IN)
Bachus	Bonior	Carson (OK)
Baker	Bono	Castle
Baldacci	Boozman	Chabot
Baldwin	Borski	Chambliss
Ballenger	Boswell	Clay
Barcia	Boucher	Clayton
Barrett	Boyd	Clement
Bartlett	Brady (PA)	Clyburn
Barton	Brady (TX)	Coble
Bass	Brown (OH)	Condit
Becerra	Brown (SC)	Conyers
Bentsen	Bryant	Cooksey
Bereuter	Burton	Costello
Berkley	Buyer	Cox
Berman	Callahan	Coyne
Berry	Calvert	Cramer