

On the evening of July 10, 2006, Milena Del Valle was killed tragically as she and her husband traveled to Boston's Logan Airport, utilizing the Ted Williams Tunnel. Milena was killed when sections of the concrete ceiling collapsed.

A number of investigations were launched in the wake of this tragedy. One, undertaken by the National Transportation Safety Board, cited "inadequate regulatory requirements for tunnel inspections" as a major safety issue that merited correction.

This bill puts in place those needed requirements, mandatory tunnel inspections, and creates a national list of tunnels, to complement existing lists of bridges. I hope that swift action today in the House will be followed by the Senate, so that any future tragedies like we saw in Massachusetts can be averted. Again, I want to thank Congressman CAPUANO, and am pleased to support this bill.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I simply will urge passage, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 409, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish national tunnel inspection standards for the proper safety inspection and evaluation of all highway tunnels, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN HIGHWAY USERS ALLIANCE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 772) recognizing the American Highway Users Alliance on the occasion of its 75th anniversary, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 772

Whereas in 1932, Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., then president of General Motors Corporation, and other civic leaders had the foresight to found the National Highway Users Conference for the purpose of working "for good, all-weather roads in every state";

Whereas in 1970, the National Highway Users Conference merged with the Automotive Safety Foundation to form the Highway Users Federation for Safety and Mobility, which in 1995 was renamed as the American Highway Users Alliance (known as the "Highway Users");

Whereas since its founding, the Highway Users has been a persistent and outspoken

proponent for adequate funding of the Nation's highway infrastructure and a consistent voice for motorists who use the highways for leisure, family, and business purposes and for those who depend on the Nation's transportation infrastructure for commercial purposes;

Whereas the Highway Users has voiced the interests of motorists and businesses on all major national highway and traffic safety legislation over the past 75 years, including the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, which authorized the Interstate Highway System and established the Highway Trust Fund;

Whereas the Highway Users has been a consistent force for protecting the integrity of the Highway Trust Fund and State highway trust funds;

Whereas research conducted by the Highway Users has documented the promise and potential of modern United States highways in improving safety, facilitating emergency evacuations, and growing the national economy; and

Whereas the Highway Users has been a strong advocate in favor of strengthening the national highway network by promoting a strong Federal role in mobility and safety and by advocating policies that benefit highway users: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the American Highway Users Alliance on the occasion of its 75th anniversary;

(2) commends the many achievements of the American Highway Users Alliance; and

(3) encourages the American Highway Users Alliance to continue its tradition of excellence in service to motorists and the transportation industry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 772.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 772, a resolution to congratulate the American Highway Users Alliance on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

Founded in 1932 as the National Highway Users Conference, in 1970 the group merged with the Automotive Safety Foundation and were renamed the Highway Users Federation for Safety and Mobility, and in 1995 they took on the current name of American Highway Users Alliance ("the Highway Users").

The Highway Users has always been an outspoken proponent for adequate funding for our Nation's highway infrastructure and a consistent voice for motorists and those who depend on our highways for commercial purposes.

For the past 75 years, Highway Users have expressed the interests of motorists and businesses on all major national highway and traffic safety legis-

lation, including strong support for the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956, which authorized the Interstate Highway System, established the Highway Trust Fund. Since then, it's been an unwavering force for protecting the integrity of the Federal Highway Trust Fund and State Highway Trust Funds.

As we received a report last week on the state of the Nation's infrastructure from a commission that was created by the passage of the SAFETEA-LU bill, we find that we are dramatically in deficit in investing in the Nation's infrastructure. And the current administration is dramatically in denial about the deficit in investing in infrastructure, so there will be a lot of work to be done by the American Highway Users Alliance and other advocates for an improved transportation network in the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would like to also voice my support for House Resolution 772. House Resolution 772 was introduced by Chairman OBERSTAR, Ranking Member MICA, Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chairman DEFAZIO, and myself to recognize the 75th anniversary of the American Highway Users Alliance, a broad national coalition of organizations representing motorists and businesses.

The American Highway Users Alliance is a nonprofit advocacy organization with the mission to promote safe, uncongested highways and enhanced mobility. The group's membership includes over 300 national trade associations, corporations, small businesses, and other State and local nonprofit groups. They represent over 45 million highway users.

Since 1932, the group has fought for road and bridge investments that will save lives, promote economic growth, improve quality of life, and protect freedom of mobility.

The American Highway Users Alliance focuses its campaigns on fair highway use taxation, Federal highway policy and funding, and responsible environmental policy.

The American Highway Users Alliance is an important voice for the interests of motorists and businesses and has been an active participant in every major national highway and traffic safety law passed over the last 75 years.

I strongly support this resolution and congratulate the American Highway Users Alliance on its achievements and on its 75th anniversary. Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 772, to congratulate American Highway Users Alliance on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

The American Highway Users Alliance ("Highway Users") has changed its name several times over 75 years. The group was

founded in 1932 as the National Highway Users Conference. In 1970, the group merged with the Automotive Safety Foundation and was renamed the Highway Users Federation for Safety and Mobility. In 1995, the organization took on its current name.

Yet no matter what the group was called, Highway Users has always been a persistent and outspoken proponent for adequate funding and oversight of the Nation's highway infrastructure, and a diligent voice for the interests of the public.

Highway Users has voiced the interests of motorists and businesses on all major national highway and traffic safety legislation over the past 75 years, including strong support of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, which authorized the Interstate Highway System and established the Highway Trust Fund.

Highway Users has worked tirelessly over the past 75 years to protect the integrity of the Highway Trust Fund and State highway trust funds.

The organization has conducted crucial research documenting the promise and potential of modern United States highways in improving safety, facilitating emergency evacuations, and growing the national economy.

The American Highway Users Alliance has also been a consistent advocate in favor of strengthening the national highway network by promoting a strong Federal role in mobility and safety and by advocating policies that benefit all highway users.

For these and other contributions to our daily lives, our economic well-being, and our health and safety, I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of the American Highway Users Alliance and its sustained contribution in service to our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and join me in commemorating the 75th anniversary of the American Highway Users Alliance.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers, and so I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 772.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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HONORING THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 866) honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the Coast Guard seizing over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during

2007, far surpassing all of our previous records.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 866

Whereas the estimated street value of the cocaine seized by the Coast Guard in 2007 is more than \$4,700,000,000 or nearly half of the Coast Guard's annual budget;

Whereas the Coast Guard's at sea drug interdictions are making a difference in the lives of American citizens evidenced by the reduced supply of cocaine in more than 35 major cities throughout the United States;

Whereas keeping illegal drugs from reaching our shores where they undermine American values and threaten families, schools, and communities continues to be an important national priority;

Whereas through robust interagency teamwork, collaboration with international partners, and ever-more effective tools and tactics, the Coast Guard has seized more than 2,000,000 pounds of cocaine during the past 10 years and will continue to tighten the web of detection and interdiction at sea; and

Whereas the Coast Guard men and women who, while away from family and hundreds of miles from our shores, execute this dangerous mission, as well as other vital maritime safety, security, and environmental protection missions, with quiet dedication and without want of public recognition, continue to show dedication and selfless service in protecting the Nation and the American people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives honors the United States Coast Guard, with its proud 217 year legacy of maritime law enforcement and border protection, along with the brave men and women whose efforts clearly demonstrate the honor, respect, and devotion to duty that ensures America's parents can sleep soundly knowing the Coast Guard is on patrol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. COBLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 866.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the United States Coast Guard provides extraordinary service to our Nation on a daily basis. They are providing for homeland security. They are providing in this case that we will talk about in some depth a drug interdiction to keep our citizens safe and deprive drug traffickers of easy access to the United States, and they also provide life-saving services, in addition to other routine law enforcement and monitoring activities.

This seizure is fairly extraordinary: 350,000 pounds of cocaine with an esti-

mated street value of about \$4.7 billion. That is more than half the budget of the United States Coast Guard. It is extraordinary for this, the smallest of our uniformed services, to have provided that much protection for our country.

There are 41,000 men and women in the Coast Guard who patrol our Nation's shores, gather and process intelligence from around the world every single day of the year, as I mentioned earlier, both a homeland security purpose, and in this case, to interdict drug smuggling.

Though most Americans may not often see the Coast Guard at work along our 95,000 miles of coastline, you can be certain that the effects of the service's essential work ripple down into even local neighborhoods. Drug dealers are feeling the effects of the Coast Guard's good work as they complain of short supplies in more than 35 major U.S. cities.

The Coast Guard has been guarding our coasts and securing our borders since 1790. They do so without need for special recognition. They execute their missions daily, whether it is maritime safety, environmental protection, search and rescue, maritime law enforcement or homeland security.

Due to the Coast Guard's aggressive enforcement in monitoring the Caribbean drug routes, drug smugglers have now had to resort to much more dangerous and expensive tactics providing a deterrent. They've had deterrents to specific routes, which takes them more than 1,000 miles offshore, which costs them more money and presents logistical difficulties, and yet again, gives the Coast Guard further opportunities to interdict.

Although the Coast Guard is the smallest of the seven uniformed services, it is the Nation's leading maritime enforcement agency. Interdicting drugs is an Interagency effort. The Coast Guard relies heavily on their partnerships with numerous Federal and State agencies, including the Department of Defense, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration and Customs and Border Patrol to extend their law enforcement authority.

These partnerships are a critical component of their interdiction success. They have also negotiated international bilateral agreements to allow them to conduct operations and stop illegal smuggling outside of U.S. territorial waters.

H. Res. 866 honors the brave men and women of the Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication and commitment to protecting the United States resulted in this extraordinary interdiction of illegal drug shipments in 2007, and on a daily basis protects our Nation and our citizens.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 866 and urge adoption of the resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.