

In this Congress, the bill passed the Judiciary Committee by a 23-0 vote, and, unfortunately, despite this history of broad bipartisan support, the Senate has never acted on any of these bills, though hope springs eternal.

I am encouraged that, even as stark differences among Members of this body remain, this important legislation continues to enjoy bipartisan support.

I thank Chairman JORDAN for his work in helping to bring H.R. 4250 to the floor today, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I note that the PRESS Act is endorsed by a number of First Amendment and press freedom organizations, including the ACLU, the Center for Democracy and Technology, the Committee to Protect Journalists, Demand Progress, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, the First Amendment Coalition, the Freedom of the Press Foundation, the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, the National Association of Broadcasters, PEN America, the Protect The 1st Foundation, the Radio Television Digital News Association, and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 4250, a necessary and long overdue Federal protection for journalists and their sources.

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. I again thank Mr. RASKIN for working with me on this legislation, as well as Chair JORDAN and Ranking Member NADLER for helping to get it through the Judiciary Committee with unanimous bipartisan support.

I very much look forward to seeing this bill get to the President's desk and get signed into law this year. I urge all of my colleagues here in the House to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4250.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

REMOTE ACCESS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR VICTIMS OF THE 1988 BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103 OVER LOCKERBIE, SCOTLAND

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3250) to provide remote access to court proceedings for victims of the 1988 Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3250

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REMOTE ACCESS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR VICTIMS OF THE 1988 BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103 OVER LOCKERBIE, SCOTLAND.

(a) DEFINITION OF VICTIM OF CRIMES ASSOCIATED WITH THE BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103.—In this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the term "victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103" means any individual—

(A) who suffered direct or proximate harm as a result of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 that occurred over Lockerbie, Scotland, on December 21, 1988, and was present at or near the scene of the bombing when it occurred, or immediately thereafter; or

(B) who is the spouse, legal guardian, parent, child, brother, sister, next of kin, or other relative of, or who is determined by the applicable district court of the United States to be an individual who possesses a relationship of similar significance to, an individual described in subparagraph (A) or an individual otherwise described in this subsection.

(2) LIMITATION.—The term "victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103" does not include an individual who participated or conspired in the crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, and notwithstanding any provision of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure or other law or rule to the contrary, in order to permit victims of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 to access court proceedings in the criminal case against Abu Agila Mohammed Mas'ud Kheir Al-Marimi and against any co-conspirator subsequently charged and prosecuted in a court of the United States for crimes related to the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, the district court of the United States in such a case shall order that reasonable efforts be made to make remote video and telephonic access to proceedings in the case available to victims of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

(2) NO LIMIT ON LOCATION.—Remote video and telephonic access to proceedings shall be made available under paragraph (1) to a victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 without regard to the location of the victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

(c) DISTRICT COURT DISCRETION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to eliminate or limit the discretion of a district court of the United States to control the manner, circumstances, or availability of re-

mote video or telephonic transmissions where necessary to control the courtroom or protect the integrity of court proceedings or the safety of parties, witnesses, or other participants in the proceedings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials on S. 3250.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on December 21, 1988, a bomb planted by Libyan terrorists detonated on Pan Am Flight 103 while it was flying over Lockerbie, Scotland; 270 people, including 190 Americans, 34 of which were from my home State, the State of New Jersey, lost their lives in this tragic attack.

Over 30 years later, the Department of Justice announced the arrest and indictment of the alleged bomb maker. His trial is scheduled to take place in Washington, D.C., with pretrial hearings that are already underway.

However, given the time that has passed and the attack's international impact, surviving families are generally older, and some of them are physically unable to attend these hearings. Others live scattered across the United States of America and the world, making it difficult to travel and to attend.

In light of this fact, the government filed an unopposed motion with the court to provide remote access to the proceedings for the victims of this bombing. Unfortunately, the court denied the motion, finding that no statute or case law authorized such an accommodation.

This bill, fortunately and importantly, provides that authorization. S. 3250 provides the court with a limited, one-time only authorization to accommodate the victims of the Pan Am 103 bombing by making remote video and telephonic access available to these victims and their families.

Additionally, there is precedent for this type of measure. Congress passed similar laws authorizing access to trials for victims of September 11 and again during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This bill is supported by Victims of Pan Am Flight 103, which is an organization comprised of family members whose loved ones were killed on the flight. Their unyielding resolve in holding those responsible for the murder of their loved ones is the embodiment of American tenacity and American spirit.

I am proud to have spearheaded the House version of this important legislation, which will ensure that the victims of these attacks can witness as the architect of this atrocity faces the full weight of the American justice system.

Let this case serve as an unwavering warning to our enemies around the world: If you harm Americans, if you dare to strike at the heart of America, know this—there will be no refuge and no corner of the Earth where you can hide. You will find no peace.

I urge all Members to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 3250, a bill to ensure that the victims and families of the victims of the 1988 bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, have remote access to the court proceedings that will finally bring one of the perpetrators of this terrorist attack to justice.

Mr. Speaker, on December 21, 1988, Pan Am Flight 103 took off from London Heathrow Airport en route across the Atlantic to New York's Kennedy Airport.

Thirty-eight minutes after it took off, while flying high above Lockerbie, Scotland, a bomb set off by a Libyan terrorist exploded, destroying the plane instantaneously and taking the lives of all of its passengers, as well as the lives of 11 residents of Lockerbie, who were killed by falling debris—270 people from 21 different countries, including 190 Americans, were killed in this deadly attack.

For more than three decades, law enforcement officials in the United States and around the world have worked relentlessly to see that everyone responsible for the bombing is held accountable.

Thanks to their hard work, one of the terrorists behind the attack will soon face trial for his actions in Federal district court. Because the victims and their families are scattered in more than a dozen countries throughout the world, and many have reached an advanced age that makes travel very difficult, it is nearly impossible to ensure these victims and family members have meaningful access to the court proceedings without some sort of remote audio or visual option.

Unfortunately, the district court where the trial would take place has determined that it does not have the authority to permit such remote access—in other words, cameras in the courtroom, or at least live streaming.

This legislation, therefore, would provide statutory authority and instruction to the district court in this case to order and ensure that remote video and telephonic access to the trial proceedings be made available to the victims.

Now, that is not too much to ask for the victims of the Lockerbie tragedy.

It is also not too much to ask on behalf of the American people who need and want to view the proceedings in U.S. v. Trump who can't get to Washington, D.C., to see it, but they would love to view it and hear it in live time, in real time.

Although the Lockerbie bombing occurred many years ago, the wounds are still fresh for the grieving families left behind. This legislation would help provide some level of comfort so that they can observe one of those responsible for this deadly attack being brought to justice.

I thank Senators CORNYN and GILLIBRAND for their efforts in bringing this important bipartisan legislation forward. I also thank my good friend, Representative VAN DREW, Ranking Member NADLER, and Representative CHRIS SMITH for leading this legislation in the House.

I urge all Members to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the author of this legislation and I don't agree on much. We fight like cats and dogs, with me being the dog, but on this, we agree.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 remains one of the deadliest terrorist attacks on American civilians in America's history. Now, 35 years later, we are on the verge of finally—finally—holding those responsible individuals accountable.

Let that be a symbol of America's unending pursuit of justice against those who would choose to do our country and our citizens harm.

I thank the families of the victims of this attack for their involvement with this bill and their tireless work in achieving justice for their loved ones.

I thank the bipartisan coalition both in the Senate and here in the House that helped this bill move rapidly to the President's desk.

I thank my good friend from Georgia for his support, and I thank Ranking Member NADLER. He is an important guy, and I certainly should thank him, as well. We appreciate his support and appreciate Ranking Member NADLER as well as, of course, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, JIM JORDAN.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3250.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENT AND GREAT AMERICAN LANCE CORPORAL JOSEPH BARNA

(Mr. MEUSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I was reminded recently by my very good friend and great American, Tiffany Cloud, of another great American from my district, an avid writer and Marine Corps veteran, Lance Corporal Joseph Barna, whom I was pleased to meet several years ago.

Joe recently won a national gold medal for his essay "Our Life Is About Memories" in the prestigious 2023 Veterans Administration creative arts contest. This impressive feat marks his fourth national gold medal in this highly competitive veteran writing contest.

Joe Barna served our country with honor during the Korean war with the 1st Marine Division, 1st Regiment, 1st Battalion, Baker Company, Anti-Assault Platoon.

He writes essays, and he wrote a book, "God Makes Angels and Navy Corpsmen: A Korean War Veteran's Memories of the War and Life."

Joe also uses his writing talents to actively promote veteran causes throughout our community. He is all about America, and he is all about veterans.

Mr. Speaker, today on the House floor, I am not only honored to recognize Lance Corporal Joseph Barna, but I strongly encourage all Americans to read the essay "Our Life Is About Memories." It is sad, heartwarming, patriotic, and written by a great American.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Barna for his service.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows: