

THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT DAVID LAUGHLIN

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert David Laughlin of Boalsburg in Centre County, Pennsylvania.

A lifelong central Pennsylvanian, Robert was born on March 9, 1924, in Altoona, and will be celebrating his 100th birthday this coming Saturday.

At 18, he enlisted in the United States Navy and was selected for officer training. He received his commission at the U.S. Naval Academy under an accelerated program for wartime midshipmen. At that time, he was one of the youngest commissioned officers in the fleet.

He served during World War II in the Pacific region as radar officer aboard the USS *Pittsburgh* and later aboard the USS *Pasadena*.

A Penn State graduate, Robert spent his career as a physicist studying electro-optical research for early airborne reconnaissance platforms and holds several U.S. patents. He later served as science adviser to the Governor of Pennsylvania under three administrations.

Most notably, he helped coordinate the initial State government response to the Three Mile Island accident in 1979.

Today, Robert is actively working on computer repairs, studying quantum physics, and spending time with his 8 grandkids and 10 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Robert a happy birthday.

WORLD STAGE WEAKNESS

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, before President Biden took office, there was no war in Ukraine, Israel had not suffered a brutal attack from Iran-backed Hamas terrorists, and America was respected on the world stage.

Now, 3 years into the Biden administration, a message has been sent far and wide to our enemies and adversaries around the world: America's leadership is weak. Whether it was the botched Afghanistan withdrawal, the appeasement of Iran, or the delay and downright refusal to stand up to Moscow, the world has been plunged into chaos.

Now, we must deal with the consequences. Military servicemembers'

lives are at risk, Mr. Speaker. Our enemies are emboldened more than ever. That is why House Republicans are pursuing policies that counter China, promote peace through strength, and support our troops and allies to deter increasing global threats.

We are committed to the security of the United States of America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1500

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at 3 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Avery M. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

SECURING THE CITIES IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4403) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make improvements to the Securing the Cities program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4403

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Securing the Cities Improvement Act".

SEC. 2. STC PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY, METRICS, AND CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.

Section 1928 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 596b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "high-risk urban areas" and inserting "jurisdictions designated under subsection (c)";

(2) by amending paragraph (7) of subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(7) establish performance metrics and milestones for the STC program, monitor expenditures for the program, and track the performance against program metrics and milestones; and";

(3) in subsection (c)(1), by striking "from among high-risk urban areas under section 2003" and inserting "based on the capability and capacity of the jurisdiction relating to preparedness and response, as well as the relative threat to such jurisdiction, vulnerability of such jurisdiction, and consequences for such jurisdiction, regarding terrorist attacks and other high-consequence events utilizing nuclear or other radiological materials"; and

(4) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

"(d) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report regarding participation in the STC program, the establishment of metrics and milestones for the STC program, performance against such metrics and milestones, and plans for any changes to the STC program."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4403.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4403. Since 2007, DHS has operated the Securing the Cities program to help cities prepare for and respond to nuclear or radiological threats.

H.R. 4403, the Securing the Cities Improvement Act will remove the requirement for a jurisdiction to be designated as a high-risk urban area by FEMA, diminishing the uncertainty for cities to be removed from the STC program.

Additionally, this legislation will provide transparency by requiring the department to establish performance metrics and milestones for the STC program to track its performance and monitor its expenditures.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CARTER for his work on this. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4430, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are here today to consider my bill, H.R. 4403, the Securing the Cities Improvement Act.

My bill will help cities build and maintain their security capabilities against nuclear or radiological threats.

While I will emphasize the critical nature of my bill, its effectiveness

hinges upon the reauthorization of the DHS Office of Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction, CWMD.

Without CWMD, the Securing the Cities program will cease to operate. Securing the Cities, also called STC, was launched by the Department of Homeland Security in fiscal year 2007 as a pilot program to support New York City, Jersey City, and Newark, New Jersey, in detecting and preventing nuclear or radiological threats.

Today, the STC program provides 14 local governments, including my hometown of New Orleans, with detection equipment, training, exercise support, operational and technical support, subject matter expertise, and programmatic support.

STC's work in New Orleans has supported important events such as Mardi Gras, which is a very special and joyous time in my hometown. As you know, we will have the Super Bowl next year. This will have a critical impact on its safety and delivering joy to the people of our country and our world.

However, STC is limited to high-risk urban areas designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Urban Area Security Initiative, or UASI, program.

Linking STC and UASI together can create uncertainty for local governments participating in the program, as the composition of jurisdictions in the UASI program can fluctuate from one year to the next.

To ensure stability within the STC program and maintain partnerships with at-risk cities, I introduced the Securing the Cities Improvement Act. My legislation would allow CWMD to determine which cities to partner with for the STC program based on the jurisdiction's capability and capacity to prepare for and respond to threats of vulnerabilities against terrorist attacks and other high-consequence events utilizing nuclear or other radiological materials.

It would also establish performance metrics and milestones for the STC program and monitor expenditures for the program.

Furthermore, the legislation requires DHS to provide a report to Congress regarding participation in the STC program, the establishment of metrics and milestones for the program, and any proposed modifications for this program.

The bill is a commonsense measure, one that will ensure that our cities are protected from nuclear or radiological threats.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4403, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4403 is important for sustaining local jurisdictions' capa-

bilities to counter chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.

Without the support of programs like STC, addressing and mitigating threats could become more difficult or cease to exist altogether, which would jeopardize the safety and well-being of every individual residing in our country.

Passage of this legislation is vital to maintaining our preparedness and ensuring the security of the Nation against the evolving challenges posed by terrorist attacks and other high-consequence events that utilize nuclear or radiological materials.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support H.R. 4403, and I thank Chairman GREEN for his support in this measure.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4403. I thank Mr. CARTER, the gentleman from Louisiana, for his excellent work on this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4403.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IMPROVING TRAVEL FOR FAMILIES ACT

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5969) to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to revise certain regulations to permit certain children to accompany their parents or legal guardians through Global Entry airport lanes, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5969

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Improving Travel for Families Act".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF GLOBAL ENTRY TO CERTAIN CHILDREN.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall revise section 235.12 of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations, to permit a child who is 10 years old or younger who is not a member of Global Entry in accordance with such section and who is traveling with such child's parent or legal guardian who is a member of Global Entry in accordance with such section to accompany such parent or legal guardian through a Global Entry lane upon arrival at an international airport in the United States.

(b) *APPOINTMENTS.*—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall take such actions as may be

necessary to permit a parent or legal guardian of up to four children described in subsection (a) who is applying for membership in Global Entry on behalf of such children to schedule a single appointment for an interview relating to such membership for all such children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5969.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5969, the Global Entry program, which is managed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, grants expedited clearance for preapproved, low-risk travelers.

Millions of users are enrolled in the Global Entry program and Global Entry kiosks are deployed at many major airports throughout the United States. However, issues can arise when families are traveling with minor children who are not enrolled in the Global Entry program. Because Global Entry benefits are member specific, young children who are not enrolled in the program are not currently allowed to join their parents in the Global Entry line.

H.R. 5969 would rectify this by allowing children ages 10 and younger to join their Global Entry-enrolled parents or guardian through the Global Entry lane.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LUTTRELL for his work on this very important bill. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5969, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5969 aims to make Global Entry more family friendly by allowing children ages 10 or under to accompany their parents or legal guardians through Global Entry lanes when clearing customs in the United States.

We would like to see all families with young children stay together throughout the customs process, and this bill would make travel more family friendly without compromising security.

This bill also makes it possible for parents to schedule interviews for Global Entry for their kids as groups as opposed to the current format which schedules appointments separately—a logistical nightmare for parents.

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