

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 832) to amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal charter to the Military Officers Association of America, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceed to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and if there are statements, I ask that they be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 832) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 832

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

SECTION 1. GRANT OF FEDERAL CHARTER TO MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.

(a) GRANT OF CHARTER.—Part B of subtitle II of title 36, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 1403 the following new chapter:

“CHAPTER 1404—MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

“Sec.

“140401. Organization.

“140402. Purposes.

“140403. Membership.

“140404. Governing body.

“140405. Powers.

“140406. Restrictions.

“140407. Tax-exempt status required as condition of charter.

“140408. Records and inspection.

“140409. Service of process.

“140410. Liability for acts of officers and agents.

“140411. Annual report.

“140412. Definition.

“§ 140401. Organization

“(a) FEDERAL CHARTER.—Military Officers Association of America (in this chapter, the ‘corporation’), a nonprofit organization that meets the requirements for a veterans service organization under section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, is a federally chartered corporation.

“(b) EXPIRATION OF CHARTER.—If the corporation does not comply with the provisions of this chapter, the charter granted by subsection (a) shall expire.

“§ 140402. Purposes

“(a) GENERAL.—The purposes of the corporation are as provided in its bylaws and articles of incorporation and include—

“(1) to inculcate and stimulate love of the United States and the flag;

“(2) to defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of the Constitution of the United States and the United States Government;

“(3) to advocate military forces adequate to the defense of the United States;

“(4) to foster the integrity and prestige of the Armed Forces;

“(5) to foster fraternal relations between all branches of the various Armed Forces from which members are drawn;

“(6) to further the education of children of members of the Armed Forces;

“(7) to aid members of the Armed Forces and their family members and survivors in every proper and legitimate manner;

“(8) to present and support legislative proposals that provide for the fair and equitable treatment of members of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, military retirees, family members, survivors, and veterans; and

“(9) to encourage recruitment and appointment in the Armed Forces.

“§ 140403. Membership

“Eligibility for membership in the corporation, and the rights and privileges of members of the corporation, are as provided in the bylaws of the corporation.

“§ 140404. Governing body

“(a) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The composition of the board of directors of the corporation, and the responsibilities of the board, are as provided in the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the corporation.

“(b) OFFICERS.—The positions of officers of the corporation, and the election of the officers, are as provided in the articles of incorporation and bylaws.

“§ 140405. Powers

“The corporation has only those powers provided in its bylaws and articles of incorporation filed in each State in which it is incorporated.

“§ 140406. Restrictions

“(a) STOCK AND DIVIDENDS.—The corporation may not issue stock or declare or pay a dividend.

“(b) DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME OR ASSETS.—The income or assets of the corporation may not inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, a director, officer, or member of the corporation during the life of the charter granted by this chapter. This subsection does not prevent the payment of reasonable compensation to an officer or employee of the corporation or reimbursement for actual necessary expenses in amounts approved by the board of directors.

“(c) LOANS.—The corporation may not make a loan to a director, officer, employee, or member of the corporation.

“(d) CLAIM OF GOVERNMENTAL APPROVAL OR AUTHORITY.—The corporation may not claim congressional approval or the authority of the United States Government for any of its activities.

“(e) CORPORATE STATUS.—The corporation shall maintain its status as a corporation incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

“§ 140407. Tax-exempt status required as condition of charter

“If the corporation fails to maintain its status as an organization exempt from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the charter granted under this chapter shall terminate.

“§ 140408. Records and inspection

“(a) RECORDS.—The corporation shall keep—

“(1) correct and complete records of account;

“(2) minutes of the proceedings of the members, board of directors, and committees of the corporation having any of the authority of the board of directors of the corporation; and

“(3) at the principal office of the corporation, a record of the names and addresses of the members of the corporation entitled to vote on matters relating to the corporation.

“(b) INSPECTION.—A member entitled to vote on any matter relating to the corporation, or an agent or attorney of the member, may inspect the records of the corporation for any proper purpose at any reasonable time.

“§ 140409. Service of process

“The corporation shall comply with the law on service of process of each State in

which it is incorporated and each State in which it carries on activities.

“§ 140410. Liability for acts of officers and agents

“The corporation is liable for any act of any officer or agent of the corporation acting within the scope of the authority of the corporation.

“§ 140411. Annual report

“The corporation shall submit to Congress an annual report on the activities of the corporation during the preceding fiscal year. The report shall be submitted at the same time as the report of the audit required by section 10101(b) of this title. The report may not be printed as a public document.

“§ 140412. Definition

“In this chapter, the term ‘State’ includes the District of Columbia and the territories and possessions of the United States.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters at the beginning of subtitle II of title 36, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 1403 the following new item:

“1404. Military Officers Association of America 140401”.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Environment and Public Works Committee be discharged from further consideration of the following bills, all en bloc: H.R. 2913, H.R. 1687, H.R. 2053, H.R. 2498, and H.R. 2121; that the bills be read a third time and passed, en bloc, with the motions to reconsider laid upon the table.

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

SIDNEY M. ARONOVITZ UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

The bill (H.R. 2913) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RALPH REGULA FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

The bill (H.R. 1687) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ALBERT ARMENDARIZ, SR., UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

The bill (H.R. 2053) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI FEDERAL BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 2498) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY IN GALVESTON, TEXAS

The bill (H.R. 2121) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE INDIVIDUALS KILLED DURING UNUSUAL STORMS AND FLOODS IN GEORGIA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 286.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 286) expressing condolences to the families of the individuals killed during unusual storms and floods in the State of Georgia between September 18 and September 21, 2009, and expressing gratitude to all of the emergency personnel who continue to work with unyielding determination to meet the needs of Georgia's residents.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I come to the floor with a heavy heart to express condolences to those in my home State of Georgia as well as others across the southern part of our country who have been affected by the recent devastating floods.

It is hard to imagine that 1 year ago we in Georgia were in the fourth year of extensive drought. Yet today across the metro Atlanta area and throughout north Georgia, we have gone from a water crisis in the last couple of years to rising waters that have transformed neighborhoods into rivers, ballfields into lakes, and basements into dank pools. Rafts and kayaks have taken the place of cars in streets. In many areas, the only dry places are rooftops and treetops.

For 4 days and 4 nights, beginning September 18, water poured from the sky in torrents, and rose from rivers, creeks, and the saturated ground to claim lives and livelihoods, worldly possessions, and treasured memories in flooded basements, attics, driveways, and fields.

The Chattooga and Chattahoochee Rivers and Chickamauga Creek, swollen by days of rain, topped their banks, with deadly results. The Chattahoochee crested at 30 feet, some 15 feet above flood stage.

Nearly 1,000 families have lost their homes to flooding they never expected to see in their lifetimes. Others found their businesses submerged. Because most are not in floodplains, they do not have flood insurance. Many have lost everything they own during already tough economic times.

In addition to homes and businesses, the rising waters destroyed roadways, swept away bridges, tainted drinking water, and damaged sewer systems. It will take months, if not years, to repair the damage.

Even more heart-wrenching is the fact that nine Georgians and one resident of Alabama, just across the State line, have perished in the rushing waters.

When all was said and done, more than 20 inches of rain fell on Georgia, breaking a 130-year-old record at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson Inter-

national Airport. More than 30,000 people were without power in the metro Atlanta area. The Red Cross sheltered hundreds rendered homeless by the floods.

However, the worst situations often bring out the best in people. Local first responders and emergency personnel worked tirelessly to protect lives and property and to rescue those trapped by the waters. Their bravery and sacrifice is exemplary.

Also, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency worked around the clock to facilitate requests for assistance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency worked closely with the State to anticipate and respond to emergency needs, and countless volunteers gave time and energy to ensure that evacuees were sheltered, clothed, fed, and comforted. They all have Georgians' and my personal deepest, most heartfelt gratitude.

I would like to express my sympathy to the families of those who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods. To that end, Senator ISAKSON and I have submitted this resolution, S. Res. 286, expressing condolences to those affected and appreciation to emergency responders and others who helped them. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution tonight.

On September 21, Gov. Sonny Perdue declared a state of emergency in 17 counties. I understand President Obama called Governor Perdue Tuesday night to discuss the needs of Georgians and assured the Governor that his request for Federal aid would receive prompt attention. To that end, today we received notification that 4 of the 17 affected counties have been declared disaster areas by President Obama, and I am certain the others, when the processing is completed, will likewise be declared disaster areas.

Tomorrow, Vice President BIDEN will accompany Senator ISAKSON and myself to Georgia to take a firsthand look at what is going on.

Mr. President, we are literally underwater. Georgia and other parts of the Southeast need the assistance of the Federal Government in this case, as well as the State government. To that end, we are seeing the response in a very appropriate way.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 286) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 286

Whereas beginning on September 18, 2009, the State of Georgia was hit by days of unusually strong storms that resulted in downpours and flooding;

Whereas numerous Georgia rivers and creeks, including the Chattooga and Chat-

tahoochee Rivers and the Chickamauga Creek, swollen by days of rain, overtopped their banks, creating a dangerous and deadly situation for nearby residents;

Whereas the storms and floods took human lives;

Whereas the floodwater destroyed homes, flooded roadways, including major highways, compromised drinking water, severely damaged plumbing systems, and caused significant damage to homes and businesses;

Whereas on September 21, 2009, Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue declared a state of emergency in 17 counties, including Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Crawford, DeKalb, Douglas, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Newton, Paulding, Rockdale, Stephens, and Walker Counties;

Whereas the National Weather Service estimated that between 15 and 22 inches of rain fell in the metropolitan Atlanta counties of Gwinnett, Douglas, and Paulding between September 18 and September 21, 2009;

Whereas the rains broke a 130-year-old record at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport;

Whereas hundreds of Georgians were evacuated from their homes, and more than 300 people sought refuge in shelters;

Whereas Governor Perdue estimated that more than 1,000 residences were seriously flooded;

Whereas the weather closed schools in several counties;

Whereas as many as tens of thousands of people were without power in metropolitan Atlanta;

Whereas search and rescue operations functioned in several counties where the water continued to rise;

Whereas the Georgia Emergency Management Agency coordinated with local emergency personnel and worked tirelessly to protect human lives and rescue those threatened by the floods;

Whereas the Georgia Emergency Management Agency facilitated requests for assistance from people and first responders all across the State of Georgia;

Whereas the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and other first responders acted valiantly in life-safety response operations, including delivering sandbags and rescuing people trapped in their cars and homes from the floodwater;

Whereas the Federal Emergency Management Agency activated its national and regional response coordination centers and worked closely with the State of Georgia to monitor the response efforts and identify and respond to any immediate emergency needs for the people and communities of the State that were impacted by the devastating floods; and

Whereas volunteers gave their time to help ensure that evacuees were sheltered, clothed, fed, and comforted through this traumatic event: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) offers its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the flooding in the State of Georgia;

(2) expresses its condolences to the families who lost their homes and other property in the floods;

(3) expresses gratitude and appreciation to the people of the State of Georgia and the surrounding States, who worked to protect people from the rising floodwaters;

(4) expresses its support as the Federal Emergency Management Agency responds to the needs of the people and communities affected by the flooding; and

(5) honors the emergency responders, within and beyond metropolitan Atlanta and the State of Georgia, for their bravery and sacrifice during this tragedy.