

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, there are countless heroes that have emerged from this tragedy, firefighters, police and others who have offered themselves in aid to their fellow citizens; but a few have risen even above those, and these are the folks that through their acts of incredible valor actually saved the lives of countless others. They are Jeremy Glick, Todd Beamer, Tom Burnett, and Mark Bingham and the other members of the crew and passengers of Flight 93 that were hijacked.

These people did something so extraordinary that it deserves the attention of this Congress. The way we are able to provide that attention is to award them and the other members of the crew and the passengers of that plane who participated in the events that prevented that plane from reaching its ultimate destination and killing who knows how many other people. We should, in fact, therefore, bestow on them the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today for that purpose, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in that effort.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6, rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before noon today.

AMENDING CHARTER OF SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2061) to amend the charter of Southeastern University of the District of Columbia.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2061

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

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO CHARTER OF SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY REGARDING BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Act entitled “An Act for the relief of the Southeastern University of the Young Men’s Christian Association of the District of Columbia”, approved August 19, 1937 (50 Stat. 697), as amended by section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to amend the charter of South-

eastern University of the District of Columbia”, approved October 10, 1966 (80 Stat. 883), is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking “, one-third of whom” and all that follows and inserting a period; and

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “elected for a term” and inserting “elected by the board for a term”.

(b) TREATMENT OF CURRENT TRUSTEES.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall not affect the term of office of any individual serving on the Board of Trustees of Southeastern University as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2061.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, our colleague and ranking member of the subcommittee of the District of Columbia, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), introduced H.R. 2061 on June 5, 2001. The subcommittee on the District of Columbia considered and marked up the bill on June 26, and the legislation was considered and ordered reported by the Committee on Government Reform on July 25.

H.R. 2061 amends the charter of Southeastern University of the District of Columbia and removes a provision in its charter requiring that one-third of the board of trustees of the university be alumni of the university. This provision would enable the university to attract a wider pool of nominees to the board.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for introducing this legislation on behalf of the president and board of directors of Southeastern University. I also want to recognize the dedicated work of Dr. Charlene Drew Jarvis, who has headed Southeastern University and brought it to the level of recognition that it enjoys today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to support H.R. 2061, a bill to amend the charter of Southeastern University of the District of Columbia, which was incorporated by an act of Congress in 1937, giving it the flexibility to appoint its board of directors from a larger group of candidates.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2061, legislation I introduced on June 5, 2001, to remove the provision of Southeastern University charter requiring that one-third of the board of trustees be Southeastern alumni.

Southeastern University President Charlene Drew Jarvis and the board of trustees asked me to introduce this corrective measure. The bill unanimously passed in both the subcommittee of the District of Columbia and the full Committee on Government Reform.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation to the Chair of the subcommittee for the District of Columbia, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), for her support of H.R. 2061 and for her continuing support of all we do in the District of Columbia.

Southeastern University was incorporated in the District of Columbia by an act of Congress on October 19, 1937. Its charter contains a provision requiring that one-third of the University’s board of trustees be alumni. On September 9, 1997, I received letters from Southeastern University President Charlene Drew Jarvis and board of trustees Chair Elizabeth Lisboa-Farrow asking that I introduce legislation to remove this provision.

President Jarvis and the board of trustees would like this provision removed in order to let the university draw from a wider pool of potential board nominees. Because the university was incorporated by an act of Congress, only the Congress can effectuate this change.

Southeastern University is an important and productive institution which contributes to higher education and the economy of the District of Columbia by offering undergraduate and graduate degrees geared specifically to the needs of working professionals such as accounting, banking, business management, computer science, information systems management, health services administration, government management, marketing and taxation.

Under the able leadership of Southeastern’s president, Dr. Charlene Drew Jarvis, who formerly served with distinction as a member of our city council for 17 years, the university has emerged from past difficulties and reached many milestones.

For example, in 1997, the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area admitted Southeastern to its membership. Since Ms. Jarvis has been president, Southeastern’s enrollment has doubled. Southeastern has developed productive partnerships with local businesses that foster community involvement, while at the same time promoting educational achievement. One such partnership is D.C. Link and Learn, a technological training center founded with Southeastern’s help near Southeastern’s main campus. In addition, Southeastern has obtained

cooperative agreements with the Washington Teachers' Union and the Greater Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants to create partnerships in support of professional development programs.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2061 will allow Southeastern to complement these and other efforts under way to strengthen the university's role in the life of the District of Columbia. I urge my colleagues to support this corrective measure.

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

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests to speak on this very important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2061.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2061.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FAMILY COURT ACT OF 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2657) to amend title 11, District of Columbia Code, to redesignate the Family Division of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia as the Family Court of the Superior Court, to recruit and retain trained and experienced judges to serve in the Family Court, to promote consistency and efficiency in the assignment of judges to the Family Court and in the consideration of actions and proceedings in the Family Court, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2657

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 "District of Columbia Family Court Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. REDESIGNATION OF FAMILY DIVISION AS FAMILY COURT OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 11-902, District of Columbia Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 11-902. Organization of the court

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Superior Court shall consist of the Family Court of the Superior Court and the following divisions of the Superior Court:

- "(1) The Civil Division.
- "(2) The Criminal Division.
- "(3) The Probate Division.
- "(4) The Tax Division.

"(b) BRANCHES.—The divisions of the Superior Court may be divided into such branches as the Superior Court may by rule prescribe.

"(c) DESIGNATION OF PRESIDING JUDGE OF FAMILY COURT.—The chief judge of the Superior Court shall designate one of the judges assigned to the Family Court of the Superior Court to serve as the presiding judge of the Family Court of the Superior Court.

"(d) JURISDICTION DESCRIBED.—The Family Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the actions, applications, determinations, adjudications, and proceedings described in section 11-1101, except that those actions within the jurisdiction of the Domestic Violence Unit (a section of the Civil Division, Criminal Division, and the Family Court) pursuant to Administrative Order No. 96-25 (October 31, 1996) shall remain in that Unit."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 9.—Section 11-906(b), District of Columbia Code, is amended by inserting "the Family Court and" before "the various divisions".

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 11.—(1) The heading for chapter 11 of title 11, District of Columbia, is amended by striking "FAMILY DIVISION" and inserting "FAMILY COURT".

(2) Section 11-1101, District of Columbia Code, is amended by striking "Family Division" and inserting "Family Court".

(3) The item relating to chapter 11 in the table of chapters for title 11, District of Columbia, is amended by striking "FAMILY DIVISION" and inserting "FAMILY COURT".

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 16.—

(1) CALCULATION OF CHILD SUPPORT.—Section 16-916.1(o)(6), District of Columbia Code, is amended by striking "Family Division" and inserting "Family Court of the Superior Court".

(2) EXPEDITED JUDICIAL HEARING OF CASES BROUGHT BEFORE HEARING COMMISSIONERS.—Section 16-924, District of Columbia Code, is amended by striking "Family Division" each place it appears in subsections (a) and (f) and inserting "Family Court".

(3) GENERAL REFERENCES TO PROCEEDINGS.—Chapter 23 of title 16, District of Columbia Code, is amended by inserting after section 16-2301 the following new section:

"§ 16-2301.1. References deemed to refer to Family Court of the Superior Court

"Upon the effective date of the District of Columbia Family Court Act of 2001, any reference in this chapter or any other Federal or District of Columbia law, Executive order, rule, regulation, delegation of authority, or any document of or pertaining to the Family Division of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia shall be deemed to refer to the Family Court of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia."

(4) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 23 of title 16, District of Columbia, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 16-2301 the following new item:

"16-2301.1. References deemed to refer to Family Court of the Superior Court."

SEC. 3. APPOINTMENT AND ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES; NUMBER AND QUALIFICATIONS.

(a) NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR FAMILY COURT; QUALIFICATIONS AND TERMS OF SERVICE.—Chapter 9 of title 11, District of Columbia Code, is amended by inserting after section 11-908 the following new section:

"§ 11-908A. Special rules regarding assignment and service of judges of Family Court

"(a) NUMBER OF JUDGES.—The number of judges serving on the Family Court of the Superior Court at any time may not be—

"(1) less than the number of judges determined by the chief judge of the Superior

Court to be needed to serve on the Family Court under the transition plan for the Family Court prepared and submitted to the President and Congress under section 3(b) of the District of Columbia Family Court Act of 2001; or

"(2) greater than 15.

"(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The chief judge may not assign an individual to serve on the Family Court of the Superior Court unless—

"(1) the individual has training or expertise in family law;

"(2) the individual certifies to the chief judge that the individual intends to serve the full term of service, except that this paragraph shall not apply with respect to individuals serving as senior judges under section 11-1504; and

"(3) the individual certifies to the chief judge that the individual will participate in the ongoing training programs carried out for judges of the Family Court under section 11-1104(c).

"(c) TERM OF SERVICE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an individual assigned to serve as a judge of the Family Court of the Superior Court shall serve for a term of 5 years.

"(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR JUDGES SERVING ON SUPERIOR COURT ON DATE OF ENACTMENT OF FAMILY COURT ACT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—An individual assigned to serve as a judge of the Family Court of the Superior Court who is serving as a judge of the Superior Court on the date of the enactment of the District of Columbia Family Court Act of 2001 shall serve for a term of not fewer than 3 years.

"(B) REDUCTION OF PERIOD FOR JUDGES SERVING IN FAMILY DIVISION.—In the case of a judge of the Superior Court who is serving as a judge in the Family Division of the Court on the date of the enactment of the District of Columbia Family Court Act of 2001, the 3-year term applicable under subparagraph (A) shall be reduced by the length of any period of consecutive service as a judge in such Division as of the date of the enactment of such Act.

"(3) ASSIGNMENT FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICE.—After the term of service of a judge of the Family Court (as described in paragraph (1) or paragraph (2)) expires, at the judge's request the judge may be assigned for additional service on the Family Court for a period of such duration (consistent with section 431(c) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act) as the chief judge may provide.

"(4) PERMITTING SERVICE ON FAMILY COURT FOR ENTIRE TERM.—At the request of the judge, a judge may serve as a judge of the Family Court for the judge's entire term of service as a judge of the Superior Court under section 431(c) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act.

"(d) REASSIGNMENT TO OTHER DIVISIONS.—The chief judge may reassign a judge of the Family Court to any division of the Superior Court if the chief judge determines that the judge is unable to continue serving in the Family Court."

(b) PLAN FOR FAMILY COURT TRANSITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the chief judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia shall prepare and submit to the President and Congress a transition plan for the Family Court of the Superior Court, and shall include in the plan the following:

(A) The chief judge's determination of the number of judges needed to serve on the Family Court.