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. 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 Maryland (Ms. MORELLA), 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 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 Maryland (Ms. MORELLA) for introducing this legislation on behalf of the president and board of trustees 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 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 and the university 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. Learn, a training center founded with Southeastern's help near Southeastern's main campus. In addition, Southeastern has obtained