

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Quillen was a friend of mine, and I can remember he and another dear friend, Walter Jones, sitting down with me on occasion, giving me sound advice to sit down and shut up. As a member of the Committee on Rules, he helped me bring to the floor many amendments that many people did not have a shot.

I just wanted to chime in and say, if there is any distinguishing element to his great career, he was fair. He treated everyone fairly, and he was always a consummate gentleman. So I think the naming of this courthouse in his honor is absolutely fitting, because he was a great American. I appreciated the times that he and I were able to speak, and he imparted much of that wisdom to me, as he did to other Members at that time who were young and just coming on; and his advice to shut up probably was the best I ever got. Mr. Quillen, God bless you and the family.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. I urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4608.

The question was taken.

Mr. LATOURETTE. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE REFORM ACT OF 2000

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 809) to amend the Act of June 1, 1948, to provide for reform of the Federal Protective Service, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 809

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 "Federal Protective Service Reform Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF POLICE OFFICERS.

The Act of June 1, 1948 (40 U.S.C. 318-318d), is amended—

(1) in section 1 by striking the section heading and inserting the following:

"SECTION 1. POLICE OFFICERS.;

(2) in sections 1 and 3 by striking "special policemen" each place it appears and inserting "police officers";

(3) in section 1(a) by striking "uniformed guards" and inserting "certain employees"; and

(4) in section 1(b) by striking "Special policemen" and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Police officers".

SEC. 3. POWERS.

Section 1(b) of the Act of June 1, 1948 (40 U.S.C. 318(b)), is further amended—

(1) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) ADDITIONAL POWERS.—Subject to paragraph (3), a police officer appointed under this section is authorized while on duty—

"(A) to carry firearms in any State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any territory or possession of the United States;

"(B) to petition Federal courts for arrest and search warrants and to execute such warrants;

"(C) to arrest an individual without a warrant if the individual commits a crime in the officer's presence or if the officer has probable cause to believe that the individual has committed a crime or is committing a crime; and

"(D) to conduct investigations, on and off the property in question, of offenses that have been or may be committed against property under the charge and control of the Administrator or against persons on such property.

"(3) APPROVAL OF REGULATIONS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The additional powers granted to police officers under paragraph (2) shall become effective only after the Commissioner of the Federal Protective Service issues regulations implementing paragraph (2) and the Attorney General of the United States approves such regulations.

"(4) AUTHORITY OUTSIDE FEDERAL PROPERTY.—The Administrator may enter into agreements with State and local governments to obtain authority for police officers appointed under this section to exercise, concurrently with State and local law enforcement authorities, the powers granted to such officers under this section in areas adjacent to property owned or occupied by the United States and under the charge and control of the Administrator.";

(2) by moving the left margin of paragraph (1), as designated by section 2(4) of this Act, so as to appropriately align with paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), as added by paragraph (1) of this subsection.

SEC. 4. PENALTIES.

Section 4(a) of the Act of June 1, 1948 (40 U.S.C. 318c(a)), is amended to read as follows:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), whoever violates any rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to section 2 shall be fined or imprisoned, or both, in an amount not to exceed the maximum amount provided for a Class C misdemeanor under sections 3571 and 3581 of title 18, United States Code."

SEC. 5. SPECIAL AGENTS.

Section 5 of the Act of June 1, 1948 (40 U.S.C. 318d), is amended—

(1) by striking "nonuniformed special policemen" each place it appears and inserting "special agents";

(2) by striking "special policeman" and inserting "special agent"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: "Any such special agent while on duty shall have the same authority outside Federal property as police officers have under section 1(b)(4)."

SEC. 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Act of June 1, 1948 (40 U.S.C. 318-318d), is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of General Services shall establish the Federal Protective Service as a separate operating service of the General Services Administration.

"(b) APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Protective Service shall be headed by a Commissioner who shall be appointed by and report directly to the Administrator.

"(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Commissioner shall be appointed from among individuals who have at least 5 years of professional law en-

forcement experience in a command or supervisory position.

"(c) DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER.—The Commissioner shall—

"(1) assist the Administrator in carrying out the duties of the Administrator under this Act;

"(2) except as otherwise provided by law, serve as the law enforcement officer and security official of the United States with respect to the protection of Federal officers and employees in buildings and areas that are owned or occupied by the United States and under the charge and control of the Administrator (other than buildings and areas that are secured by the United States Secret Service);

"(3) render necessary assistance, as determined by the Administrator, to other Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies upon request; and

"(4) coordinate the activities of the Commissioner with the activities of the Commissioner of the Public Buildings Service.

Nothing in this subsection may be construed to supersede or otherwise affect the duties and responsibilities of the United States Secret Service under sections 1752 and 3056 of title 18, United States Code.

"(d) APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner may appoint regional directors and assistant commissioners of the Federal Protective Service.

"(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Commissioner shall select individuals for appointments under paragraph (1) from among individuals who have at least 5 years of direct law enforcement experience, including at least 2 years in a supervisory position."

(b) PAY LEVEL OF COMMISSIONER.—Section 5316 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the paragraph relating to the Commissioner of the Public Buildings Service the following:

"Commissioner, Federal Protective Service, General Services Administration."

SEC. 7. PAY AND BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Act of June 1, 1948 (40 U.S.C. 318-318d), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 7. PAY AND BENEFITS.

"Notwithstanding any other provision of law or any other rule or regulation, the pay and benefits for any employee of the Federal Protective Service who maintains active law enforcement status under section 1 shall be determined in accordance with a pay and benefits package established and maintained by the Administrator of General Services that is equivalent to the pay scale and benefits package applicable to members of the United States Capitol Police. Such pay scale and benefits package shall be established by regulation, shall apply with respect to the pay period beginning January 1, 2001, and ending December 31, 2001 (and such other pay periods as may be authorized by law), and shall not result in a decrease in the pay or benefits of any individual for such pay period."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1(a) of such Act (40 U.S.C. 318(a)), is amended by striking "without additional compensation".

SEC. 8. NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Act of June 1, 1948 (40 U.S.C. 318-318d), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 8. NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS.

"After the 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this section, there shall be at least 730 full-time equivalent police officers in the Federal Protective Service. This number shall not be reduced unless specifically authorized by law."

SEC. 9. EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING.

The Act of June 1, 1948 (40 U.S.C. 318-318d), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 9. EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING."

"The Commissioner of the Federal Protective Service shall prescribe minimum standards of suitability for employment to be applied in the contracting of security personnel for buildings and areas that are owned or occupied by the United States and under the control and charge of the Administrator of General Services."

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The Act of June 1, 1948 (40 U.S.C. 318-318d), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"There is authorized to be appropriated from the Federal Buildings Fund established by section 210(f) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 490(f)) such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 809, as amended, the Federal Protective Service Reform Act of 2000, makes the Federal Protective Service a freestanding service within the General Services Administration and creates a Federal Protective Service commissioner with line authority over regional directors. Federal Protective Service is currently under the Public Buildings Service, a real estate function within the GSA.

The commissioner of the Public Building Service currently has no line authority over regional directors and can only recommend policies and procedures.

This structure leaves the Federal Protective Service with just disjointed authority and blurred accountability.

H.R. 809 establishes police and training experience standards for the new Federal Protective Service commissioner, including at least 5 years of professional law enforcement experience.

The bill clarifies and broadens authority for the officers regarding arrest and investigative powers and expands jurisdiction to areas adjacent to Federal property. All regulations implementing these expanded authorities are subject to the approval of the Attorney General.

The bill requires contract security guards to undergo more rigorous background checks and increases the number of full-time FPS officers to 730.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that our committee could work out a compromise with the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, and section 7 on pay and benefits reflects that compromise. It has been modified to direct that the Office of Personnel Management conduct a study of the pay and benefits of all Federal police forces to determine whether there are disparities between the pay and benefits of such forces.

We expect this record will be transmitted to the Congress no later than 12 months following enactment of this legislation. The change to section 7 will reduce the costs of the legislation to those costs to hire additional officers.

This legislation enhances the FPS and will make Federal buildings more secure. It has no impact on the facilities secured by the Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United States Marshal Service. I want to emphasize that this bill does not affect the statutory authority and responsibility of the Marshal Service to provide protection to the United States judges, U.S. attorneys and others connected with the functions of United States courthouses.

The law enforcement community strongly supports this measure. This legislation is long overdue, and I want to commend my colleague, the gentleman from the 17th District of Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), for his persistence and active involvement in bringing this measure to the floor. I support this bill and encourage its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter for the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, June 13, 2000.

Hon. BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In the interest of expediting floor consideration of the bill, the Committee will not exercise its jurisdiction over H.R. 809. However, we have agreed that the following language is to replace the existing language in section 7 of the legislation.

"The Office of Personnel Management shall survey the pay and benefits of all federal police forces to determine whether there are disparities between the pay and benefits of such forces that are not commensurate with differences in duties or working conditions. The Office shall submit a report to the Congress within 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, which shall contain the Office's findings and recommendations. In order for the Committees to properly evaluate granting law enforcement status, the Committees expect the report to be completed and submitted within the stated timeframe."

As you know, House Rules grant the Committee on Government Reform wide jurisdiction over government management issues including matters related to Federal civil service. This action should not, however, be construed as waiving the Committee's jurisdiction over future legislation of a similar nature.

I look forward to working with you on this and other issues throughout the remainder of the 106th Congress.

Sincerely,

DAN BURTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, June 13, 2000.

Hon. DAN BURTON,
Chairman, Committee on Government Reform,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Soon the House will consider H.R. 809, the Federal Protective

Service Reform Act of 2000. While H.R. 809 primarily contains provisions related to matters solely in the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I recognize that Section 7 of the bill regarding federal pay issues are under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Government Reform and agree to modify Section 7 to meet your concern.

I agree that allowing this bill to go forward in no way impairs upon your jurisdiction over these provisions, and I would be pleased to place this letter and your letter of June 13, 2000 in the Committee's Report. In addition, if a conference is necessary on this bill, I would support any request to have the Committee on Government Reform be represented on the conference with respect to the matters in question.

I look forward to passing this bill on the Floor soon and thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am a strong cosponsor of H.R. 809, a bill to provide a higher level of law enforcement professionalism in the Federal Protective Service, or FPS. The FPS is responsible for providing security not only in Federal buildings but also for the public who visit those buildings and the employees who work in them.

For over a year, the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, Hazardous Materials and Pipeline Transportation has reviewed and considered a bill to make the Federal Protective Service an independent entity within the General Services Administration. Through several Congresses, the subcommittee held hearings on the status of security in government-owned buildings. However, the nature of threats to Federal property changed forever with the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

In general, the subcommittee was concerned about the quality of Federal protection, including the use of contract guard services. The Members focused on the overall management of the FPS and received testimony from the General Accounting Office reporting how well the public building services was managing the protective function.

We became convinced that separating the Federal Protective Service from the real estate function in GSA would help achieve a higher level of professionalism we thought essential in Federal buildings today.

We received numerous letters in support from local law enforcement entities from across the country that supported strengthening the management of FPS by making it an independent entity within GSA. After reviewing testimony, the subcommittee determined that making the Federal Protective Service a separate entity within GSA makes sense. It makes good management sense.

This move makes operational sense as well. The commissioner of the FPS

will now have command and control over his own employees. The commissioner will be able to make immediate decisions and deploy police officers without having to check with the real estate arm of GSA.

It is not a decision the subcommittee made quickly or without extensive discussion and deliberations. The staff has had numerous discussions with GSA, managers from the Federal Protective Service, officials from the Department of Justice, and finally the officials of the United States Secret Service.

The time has come to move forward with legislation that will professionalize the Federal protective workforce. It is time to update and upgrade the quality of protection offered to the public who visits our public buildings and the employees who work in these buildings.

The bill will create a separate entity within GSA. The commissioner will have control over his own employees; and as important, he will have the authority to set the standards for hiring the contract guards who are so ubiquitous in Federal buildings today.

The bill accomplishes a great deal, but a great deal remains to be done to ensure higher level of security in Federal buildings and for Federal property.

Architectural design needs to incorporate security features, sufficient funding for technology needs to be identified, and our cop on the beat needs to be the best trained and knowledgeable employee.

Mr. Speaker, I very much support H.R. 809, as amended.

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

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and I reserve the balance of our time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), the chief sponsor of the bill.

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from the District (Ms. NORTON) for yielding me the time and the former prosecutor, the gentleman from Northern Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), who understands that the best case that prosecutor may see or a sheriff may see is the one that we never see, because we may have prevented that particular deed which has caused the need for a prosecutor and sheriff to be involved.

I want to start out by saying that our Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, Hazardous Materials and Pipeline Transportation is probably the best kept secret in the Congress. I want to commend the two directors of the staff, Rick Barnett and Susan Brita; they do a great job. They did a great job on this bill.

I want to compliment the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), the chairman; and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), our rank-

ing member; the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS), the subcommittee chairman; and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE), the ranking member; and Members like the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), with his extensive knowledge of law enforcement; and everybody else on that subcommittee who has passed such important legislation, and sometimes it goes unrelated in this Congress. There is always a bipartisanship that emanates from that behavior; and as a result, the legislation is effective and makes a difference.

I just wanted to start out talking about Oklahoma City. Mr. Speaker, we know that if we look at Oklahoma City, as I did as a sheriff, I can understand why Oklahoma City became that target, the Alfred P. Murrah building.

There were three Federal buildings guarded by one guard that day, and that guard was a contract guard. Now, I am not demeaning the contract guards that serve in the Federal Protective Service; many of them are former law enforcement officers that are working now and extending their career. I think they should be paid more. I think that the bill would be better had we made that particular type of adjustment, but I think the compromise made with the Committee on Government Reform and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), who has been very fair, is good. I would hope that in the future that all law enforcement and the parity for law enforcement would be a top priority of this body.

The bottom line remains that that contract guard as it existed did not go through the same type of background checks and training as do our regular officers and these men and women are underpaid, overworked. And the big beacon light that beams out there for terrorists targets is our great buildings.

□ 1245

It is easy to make international headlines and these terrorist groups can, in fact, compete with America, with our military might so their guerrilla warfare tactics that center on terrorist activities must be recognized and must be dealt with. This bill does that.

The first thing it does is it makes a fundamental change absolutely necessary. The director of the Federal Protective Service right now answers to the director of the Public Building Service, who is a real estate expert. He is a good one, but he does not understand law enforcement. We want to make sure that that director of the law enforcement activities covering our Federal buildings reports directly to the General Services administrator. We want to make sure that those contract guards have the exact training, they have the background checks, they have expanded police powers.

So the bill is simplistic, it is common sense, but more importantly, it speaks

to the fact that the Congress of the United States did not just grieve and hold hearings over Oklahoma City. The Congress of the United States promulgated a plan predicated on reasonable factors and brought forward a legislative remedy.

Mr. Speaker, understand that there are some people in GSA that are going to oppose this legislation. As the sponsor of this bill on the floor, I want to make this statement: the responsibility in the future for a terrorist act in one of our buildings now rests in their hands if, over turf battles, they hold back an excellent piece of legislative initiative brought before the Congress. So I want to echo the statements of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and his expertise in this field, and I want to thank again the staff.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of Congress to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, as the author of H.R. 809, the "Federal Protective Service Reform Act," I rise in strong support of the bill.

I have been working for the past six years to improve federal building security. This bill will make a big difference. It will put us in a position where we can reduce the likelihood of another Oklahoma City.

Good security starts and ends with good people. One of the keys to dramatically improving building security is having a well-trained FPS led by experienced law enforcement and security professionals—not real estate managers. Congress also needs to clearly establish, by statute, FPS's mission and jurisdiction.

H.R. 809 will achieve all of these goals.

I want to thank full committee chairman BUD SHUSTER, ranking member OBERSTAR, the subcommittee chair BOB FRANKS and the ranking member BOB WISE.

I also want to thank Chairman DAN BURTON of the Government Reform Committee for working with our committee on the issue of FPS pay. While I would have liked to have kept in the bill a provision increasing FPS pay, I believe that the OPM study provision, which was drafted in consultation with the Government Reform Committee, will ultimately result in FPS officers be fairly compensated.

I, for one, intend to keep working to pass separate legislation to ensure that all federal law enforcement officers—including FPS officers—are fairly and fully compensated.

Why is this legislation needed?

Low manpower levels, a flawed management structure, and the increasing use of unqualified contract guards are seriously compromising the ability of FPS to do its job.

For example, FPS is part of GSA's real estate management arm, the Public Building Service. As such, the head of FPS does not have command and control authority over FPS regional directors. Regional FPS directors report directly to Public Building Service regional administrators—individuals with no law enforcement experience.

In addition, the majority of FPS regional directors have no law enforcement or intelligence experience.

H.R. 809 embodies the FPS-related recommendations made in a 1995 Justice Department study conducted in the wake of the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Murrah building

in Oklahoma City. The study's recommendations, which included upgrading the position of FPS within GSA, were endorsed by the FBI, Marshals Service, Department of Defense, Secret Service, State Department and Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

I would also point out that a 1996 review conducted for GSA by Arthur Andersen strongly recommended that FPS be made a stand-alone service within GSA. Unfortunately, through four separate hearings conducted over the past two years by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, PBS never once mentioned this key study.

H.R. 809 has been strongly endorsed by every major law enforcement organization in the country, including the National Fraternal Order of Police, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers.

The only issue that has been contentious, as far as the Public Building Service is concerned, is whether or not FPS should be a stand-alone service within GSA.

On this issue I side with the law enforcement community.

The fact is, the entire law enforcement community believes that making FPS a stand-alone service within GSA is essential to upgrading and improving federal building security.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is much needed and long overdue. The sad reality is that since Oklahoma City, the terrorist threat to federal buildings—foreign and domestic—has increased dramatically. Right now, we are still unprepared to deal with this threat.

H.R. 809 will give us a fighting chance to effectively combat terrorism. I urge its approval.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, a good bill deserves to be passed; I support it.

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 gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 809, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADRIAN A. SPEARS JUDICIAL TRAINING CENTER

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1959) to designate the Federal building located at 743 East Durango Boulevard in San Antonio, Texas, as the "Adrian A. Spears Judicial Training Center," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1959

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building located at 643 East Durango Boulevard in San Antonio, Texas, shall

be known and designated as the "Adrian A. Spears Judicial Training Center".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Adrian A. Spears Judicial Training Center".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1959, as amended, designates the Federal building located at 643 East Durango Boulevard in San Antonio, Texas as the "Adrian A. Spears Judicial Training Center."

Adrian Spears was born in Darlington, South Carolina, on July 8, 1910. He attended local schools, graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1929, and the South Carolina School of Law in 1934. After practicing law in South Carolina for 2 years, he moved to San Antonio in 1937 and practiced law there until his appointment by President Kennedy to the Federal bench in 1961.

The Senate confirmed his appointment in 1962, the same year that he became chief judge, a position that he held until 1979. He was the longest-serving chief judge and will hold that distinction indefinitely, since current law prohibits a judge from serving as chief judge for longer than 7 years. He assumed senior status in 1979 and retired from the Federal bench in 1982, when he became vice president of an oil company, a position that he held until his death in 1991.

Judge Spears was a member in good standing of the Texas State bar, a member of the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of Criminal Law, served on the Federal Judicial Center Board, and was the recipient of the Rosewood Gavel Award, St. Mary's School of Law.

This is a fitting honor to a dedicated public servant. I support this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1959, a bill to designate the Judicial Training Center in San Antonio, Texas, in honor of Judge Adrian A. Spears.

President John Kennedy appointed Judge Spears to the Federal bench in 1961. Judge Spears distinguished himself for 22 years as the United States District Judge in the Western District of Texas; and for 17 of those years Judge Spears served as the Chief Judge. He was also a member of the Emergency Court of Appeals, the Judicial Conference of the United States

Commission on Administration Justice, president of the 5th Circuit District Judges Association, and president of the San Antonio Bar Association.

Judge Spears was born in South Carolina and attended undergraduate school and law school at the University of North Carolina. In 1937 he moved to San Antonio and became an integral part of the community.

He was respected by his colleagues and admired for his dedication and diligence in attending to the needs of the Federal courts in the 5th circuit. In 1998 the San Antonio Bar Association passed a resolution to petition the local elected Federal officials to sponsor suitable legislation to name a facility in his honor. It is most fitting and proper to honor Judge Spears with this designation, and I strongly urge support for H.R. 1959.

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

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ).

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), as well as members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, Hazardous Materials and Pipeline Transportation, and the entire Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the action on this legislation.

This bill, which I introduced in May of last year, would designate the Federal Judicial Training Center located at 643 East Durango Boulevard in San Antonio, Texas, as the Adrian A. Spears Judicial Training Center.

Judge Spears was the epitome of an outstanding and truly dedicated United States district judge. As Chief Judge of the Western District of Texas, Judge Spears' career was highlighted by a commitment to ensuring fairness and justice in the courtrooms under his jurisdiction. To many of those who practiced in his courtroom, Judge Spears will forever be remembered for his desire to maintain a standard of professionalism second to none. He taught all of us that demanding our best effort in behalf of our individual client was the surest way of assuring justice for all, and he led by example. He felt he needed to take the extra steps to ensure that he was being fair, not only to the Government, but also to the defendant.

To that extent, he was meticulous about his preparation; and he paid particular attention to detail. In fact, I have heard that Judge Spears' secretary would often bring three or four briefcases filled with pretrial work for the next day's caseload for Judge Spears to review. Judge Spears would go through each document in the file,