

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located at 301 Simonton Street in Key West, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Sidney M. Aronovitz United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sidney M. Aronovitz United States Courthouse".

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill, H.R. 2913, introduced by the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), to designate the United States courthouse located at 301 Simonton Street in Key West, Florida, as the "Sidney M. Aronovitz United States Courthouse".

Judge Sidney M. Aronovitz served as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of Florida for 21 years. Aronovitz was born in Key West, Florida, on June 20, 1920. After graduating from Key West High School in 1937, he went on to attend the University of Florida where he was awarded a bachelor of arts degree in 1942, and a law degree, with honors, in 1943. Aronovitz went on to serve as a U.S. Army captain from 1943 to 1946, earning multiple distinctions, including a Bronze Star.

Between 1943 and 1976, Aronovitz served as a lawyer in private practice in Miami, Florida. He also served as a City Commissioner from 1962 to 1966, holding the position of Vice-Mayor in 1965. In 1976, President Gerald Ford nominated Sidney M. Aronovitz to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of Florida. Judge Aronovitz was commissioned on September 21, 1976, and served as a U.S. District Court Judge until his death in 1997. In addition, he periodically sat on the U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit, and served on the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court from 1988 to 1992.

Judge Aronovitz served with distinction and it is fitting that we honor him today with this designation.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2913.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. COHEN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted an adverse privileged report (Rept. No. 111-242) on the resolution (H. Res. 636) directing the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives all information in the Attorney General's possession relating to the transfer or release of detainees held at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, into the United States, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL SAVE FOR RETIREMENT WEEK

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Ways and Means be dis-

charged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 662) supporting the goals and ideals of "National Save for Retirement Week", including raising public awareness of the various tax-preferred retirement vehicles as important tools for personal savings and retirement financial security, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 662

Whereas people in the United States are living longer and the cost of retirement continues to rise, in part because the number of employers providing retiree health coverage continues to decline, and retiree health care costs continue to increase at a rapid pace;

Whereas Social Security remains the bedrock of retirement income for the great majority of the people of the United States, but was never intended by Congress to be the sole source of retirement income for families;

Whereas recent data from the Employee Benefit Research Institute indicates that, in the United States, less than 2/3 of workers or their spouses are currently saving for retirement and that the actual amount of retirement savings of workers lags far behind the amount that will be needed to adequately fund their retirement years;

Whereas saving for one's retirement is a key component to overall financial health and security during retirement years;

Whereas many workers may not be aware of their options for saving for retirement or may not have focused on the importance of, and need for, saving for their own retirement;

Whereas many employees have available to them through their employers access to defined benefit and defined contribution plans to assist them in preparing for retirement, yet many of them may not be taking advantage of employer-sponsored defined contribution plans at all or to the full extent allowed by the plans as prescribed by Federal law;

Whereas many workers who are saving for retirement in tax-preferred vehicles have experienced declines in their account values as a result of the recent economic downturn and market decline, making continued contributions all the more important;

Whereas all workers, including public- and private-sector employees, employees of tax-exempt organizations, and self-employed individuals, can benefit from increased awareness of the need to develop personal budgets and financial plans including retirement savings strategies, and to take advantage of the availability of tax-preferred savings vehicles to assist them in saving for retirement; and

Whereas October 18 through October 24, 2009, has been designated as "National Save for Retirement Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of "National Save for Retirement Week", including raising public awareness of the various tax-preferred retirement vehicles as important tools for personal savings and retirement financial security;

(2) supports the need to raise public awareness of efficiently utilizing substantial tax revenues that currently subsidize retirement savings, revenues estimated to be in excess

of \$120,400,000,000 for the 2008 fiscal year budget;

(3) supports the need to raise public awareness of the importance of saving adequately for retirement, and the availability of tax-preferred employer-sponsored retirement savings vehicles; and

(4) calls on the States, localities, schools, universities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate programs and activities with the goal of increasing retirement savings for all the people of the United States.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT REGULATION COMPACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 19) granting the consent and approval of Congress to amendments made by the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 19

Whereas Congress in title VI of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (section 601, Public Law 110-432) authorized the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority subject to certain conditions, including that no amounts may be provided until specified amendments to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact have taken effect;

Whereas legislation enacted by the State of Maryland (Chapter 111, 2009 Laws of the Maryland General Assembly), the Commonwealth of Virginia (Chapter 771, 2009 Acts of Assembly of Virginia), and the District of Columbia (D.C. Act 18-0095) contain the amendments to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact specified by the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (section 601, Public Law 110-432); and

Whereas the consent of Congress is required in order to implement such amendments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONSENT OF CONGRESS TO COMPACT AMENDMENTS.

(a) CONSENT.—Consent of Congress is given to the amendments of the State of Maryland, the amendments of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the amendments of the District of Columbia to sections 5, 9 and 18 of title III of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact.

(b) AMENDMENTS.—The amendments referred to in subsection (a) are substantially as follows:

(1) Section 5 is amended to read as follows:

“(a) The Authority shall be governed by a Board of eight Directors consisting of two Directors for each Signatory and two for the federal government (one of whom shall be a regular passenger and customer of the bus or rail service of the Authority). For Virginia, the Directors shall be appointed by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission; for the District of Columbia, by the Council of the District of Columbia; for Maryland, by the Washington Suburban Transit Commission; and for the Federal Government, by the Administrator of General Services. For Virginia and Maryland, the Directors shall be appointed from among the members of the appointing body, except as otherwise provided herein, and shall serve for a term coincident with their term on the appointing body. A Director for a Signatory may be removed or suspended from office only as provided by the law of the Signatory from which he was appointed. The nonfederal appointing authorities shall also appoint an alternate for each Director. In addition, the Administrator of General Services shall also appoint two nonvoting members who shall serve as the alternates for the federal Directors. An alternate Director may act only in the absence of the Director for whom he has been appointed an alternate, except that, in the case of the District of Columbia where only one Director and his alternate are present, such alternate may act on behalf of the absent Director. Each alternate, including the federal nonvoting Directors, shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. In the event of a vacancy in the Office of Director or alternate, it shall be filled in the same manner as an original appointment.

“(b) Before entering upon the duties of his office each Director and alternate Director shall take and subscribe to the following oath (or affirmation) of office or any such other oath or affirmation, if any, as the constitution or laws of the Government he represents shall provide: ‘I, , hereby solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the state or political jurisdiction from which I was appointed as a director (alternate director) of the Board of Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and will faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter.’”

(2) Subsection (a) of section 9 is amended to read as follows:

“(a) The officers of the Authority, none of whom shall be members of the Board, shall consist of a general manager, a secretary, a treasurer, a comptroller, an inspector general, and a general counsel and such other officers as the Board may provide. Except for the office of general manager, inspector general, and comptroller, the Board may consolidate any of such other offices in one person. All such officers shall be appointed and may be removed by the Board, shall serve at the pleasure of the Board and shall perform such duties and functions as the Board shall specify. The Board shall fix and determine the compensation to be paid to all officers and, except for the general manager who shall be a full-time employee, all other officers may be hired on a full-time or part-time basis and may be compensated on a salary or fee basis, as the Board may determine. All employees and such officers as the Board may designate shall be appointed and removed by the general manager under such rules of procedure and standards as the Board may determine.”

(3) Section 9 is further amended by inserting new subsection (d) to read as follows (and by renumbering all subsequent paragraphs of section 9):

“(d) The inspector general shall report to the Board and head the Office of the Inspector General, an independent and objective unit of the Authority that conducts and supervises audits, program evaluations, and investigations relating to Authority activities; promotes economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in Authority activities; detects and prevents fraud and abuse in Authority activities; and keeps the Board fully and currently informed about deficiencies in Authority activities as well as the necessity for and progress of corrective action.”

(4) Section 18 is amended by adding a new section 18(d) to read as follows:

“(d)(1) All payments made by the local Signatory governments for the Authority for the purpose of matching federal funds appropriated in any given year as authorized under title VI, section 601, Public Law 110-432 regarding funding of capital and preventative maintenance projects of 1 the Authority shall be made from amounts derived from dedicated funding sources.

“(2) For the purposes of this paragraph (d), a ‘dedicated funding source’ means any source of funding that is earmarked or required under State or local law to be used to match Federal appropriations authorized under title VI, section 601, Public Law 110-432 for payments to the Authority.”

SEC. 2. RIGHT TO ALTER, AMEND, OR REPEAL.

The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is expressly reserved. The consent granted by this Act shall not be construed as impairing or in any manner affecting any right or jurisdiction of the United States in and over the region that forms the subject of the compact.

SEC. 3. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY.

It is intended that the provisions of this compact shall be reasonably and liberally construed to effectuate the purposes thereof. If any part or application of this compact, or legislation enabling the compact, is held invalid, the remainder of the compact or its application to other situations or persons shall not be affected.

SEC. 4. INCONSISTENCY OF LANGUAGE.

The validity of this compact shall not be affected by any insubstantial differences in its form or language as adopted by the State of Maryland, Commonwealth of Virginia and District of Columbia.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

The joint resolution was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING DESIGNATION OF GOSPEL MUSIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 12) expressing support for designation of September 2009 as “Gospel Music Heritage Month” and honoring gospel music for its valuable and longstanding contributions to the culture of the United States, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 12

Whereas gospel music is a beloved art form unique to the United States, spanning decades, generations, and races;

Whereas gospel music is one of the cornerstones of the musical tradition of the United States and has grown beyond its roots to achieve pop-culture and historical relevance;

Whereas gospel music has spread beyond its geographic origins to touch audiences around the world;

Whereas the history of gospel music can be traced to multiple and diverse influences and foundations, including African-American spirituals that blended diverse elements from African music and melodic influences from Irish folk songs and hymns, and gospel music ultimately borrowed from uniquely American musical styles including ragtime, jazz, and blues;

Whereas that tradition of diversity remains today, as the influence of gospel music can be found infused in all forms of secular music, including rock and roll, country, soul, rhythm and blues, and countless other styles;

Whereas the legacy of gospel music includes some of the most memorable voices and musical pioneers in the history of the United States, such as Thomas Dorsey, Mahalia Jackson, James Vaughan, Roberta Martin, Virgil Stamps, Diana Washington, Stamps Quartet, The Highway QCs, The Statesmen, The Soul Stirrers, Point of Grace, Smokie Norful, Terry Woods, James Cleveland, Billy Ray Hearn, Rex Humbard, Joe Ligon and The Mighty Clouds of Joy, Kirk Franklin, V. Michael McKay, Theola Booker, Yolanda Adams, Edwin and Walter Hawkins, Sandi Patty, The Winans, Kathy Taylor, and Brenda Waters, Carl Preacher, Shirley Joiner of B, C & S;

Whereas many of the biggest names in music emerged from the gospel music tradition or have recorded gospel music, including Sam Cooke, Al Green, Elvis Presley, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston, Little Richard, Ray Charles, Buddy Holly, Alan Jackson, Dolly Parton, Mariah Carey, Bob Dylan, and Randy Travis;

Whereas, regardless of their musical styles, those artists and so many more have turned to gospel music as the source and inspiration for their music, which has blurred the boundaries between secular and gospel music;

Whereas, beyond its contribution to the musical tradition of the United States, gospel music has provided a cultural and musical backdrop across all of mainstream media, from hit television series to major Hollywood motion pictures, including “American Idol”, “Heroes”, “Dancing with the Stars”, “O Brother, Where Art Thou?”, “Sister Act”, “The Preacher’s Wife”, “Evan Almighty”, and more;

Whereas gospel music has a huge audience around the country and around the world, a testament to the universal appeal of a historical American art form that both inspires and entertains across racial, ethnic, religious, and geographic boundaries; and

Whereas September 2009 would be an appropriate month to designate as “Gospel Music Heritage Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress supports the designation of “Gospel Music Heritage Month” which would recognize the contributions to the culture of the United States derived from the rich heritage of gospel music and gospel music artists.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support my bill, H.J. Res. 12, that will