

(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

designate September 2009 as Gospel Music Heritage Month and honor gospel music for its valuable and longstanding contributions to the culture of the United States. Gospel music is an American art form that has spanned hundreds of generations and its musical roots can be heard throughout many musical genres that we love today. It is important that we recognize and celebrate the vital role gospel music has had on music history. For this reason, I ask that you join me in supporting my resolution expressing support for designating September 2009 as "Gospel Music Heritage Month," honoring gospel music for its valuable long-standing contributions to American culture. I would also like to thank the 6 co-sponsors who have seen fit to honor our gospel music heritage.

The history of gospel music can be traced back to African American spirituals that blended diverse elements from African music, melodic influences from Irish folk songs and hymns, and ultimately borrowed from other uniquely American musical styles including ragtime, jazz, and blues.

The influence of gospel music can be found infused in all forms of secular music, from rock & roll, country, soul, R&B, and countless other styles. The legacy of gospel music includes some of the most memorable voices and pioneers in American history, such as Thomas Dorsey, Mahalia Jackson, James Vaughan, Roberta Martin, and many more. Gospel music has laid down the musical foundation for legendary recording artists such as Elvis Presley, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, Buddy Holly, Whitney Houston, Ray Charles, Dolly Parton, Mariah Carey, Bob Dylan, and Randy Travis.

Gospel music has had an overwhelming influence on American culture and this bill recognizes gospel music's contributions by celebrating the rich heritage of gospel music and its artists in the month of September, 2009.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill as we move it to the floor for a vote.

The joint resolution 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.

□ 1415

SUPPORTING GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 513) supporting the goals and purpose of Gold Star Mothers Day, which is observed on the last Sunday in September of each year in remembrance of the supreme sacrifice made by mothers who lose a son or daughter serving in the Armed Forces, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 513

Whereas the American Gold Star Mothers have suffered the supreme sacrifice of motherhood by losing a son or daughter who

served in the Armed Forces, and thus perpetuate the memory of all whose lives are sacrificed in war;

Whereas the American Gold Star Mothers assist veterans of the Armed Forces and their dependents in the presentation of claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs and aid members of the Armed Forces who served and died or were wounded or incapacitated during hostilities;

Whereas the services rendered to the United States by the mothers of America have strengthened and inspired Americans throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas Americans honor themselves and the mothers of America when they revere and emphasize the role of the home and the family as the true foundations of the United States;

Whereas by doing so much for the home, the American mother is a source of moral and spiritual guidance for the people of the United States and thus acts as a positive force to promote good government and peace among all mankind; and

Whereas the last Sunday in September, which in 2009 is September 27, is observed as Gold Star Mothers Day: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and purpose of Gold Star Mothers Day, which is observed in remembrance of the supreme sacrifice made by mothers who lose a son or daughter serving in the Armed Forces; and

(2) urges the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Mothers Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measures just considered.

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

There was no objection.

ATTEMPTS TO DERAIL HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, when our friends on the other side of the aisle decide in advance to oppose any health care reform bill, they're putting politics ahead of the needs of the American people.

Guaranteeing coverage for pre-existing conditions, which affect 45 percent of insured Americans, they're against it. Closing the prescription drug doughnut hole for seniors, they're against it. Protecting families from the cost of catastrophic illness, they're against it. Half a trillion in Medicare and Medicaid savings, they're against it. A plan of their own, they're even against that, too.

Why, Mr. Speaker? Uniform opposition to all reform, all savings, all ex-

tended coverage? Why? The answer is simple, chilling, and deeply troubling. Senator DEMINT, Republican of South Carolina, put it bluntly: If we're able to stop Obama on health care, it will be his Waterloo. It will break him.

At least the distinguished Senator from South Carolina is honest about the Republican agenda. It's not about a substantive critique. It's about politics, a calculated cynical strategy to derail reform of a broken health care system, a reform that can benefit every American family and small business.

NATIONAL THERAPEUTIC RECREATION WEEK

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in July we celebrate National Therapeutic Recreation Week. And therapeutic recreation or recreational therapy embraces a definition of health, which includes not only the absence of illness, but extends to enhancement of the physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and leisure development.

This caring profession touches the lives of individuals facing life-changing disease and disability all across the Nation. These services are provided by professionals nationally certified by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification as certified therapeutic recreation specialists.

Every day, countless individuals face rebuilding lives as a result of disease and disability. These individuals benefit from compassionate and cost-effective care of a certified therapeutic recreation specialist. Recreational therapy ultimately aims to improve an individual's functioning and keep them as active, healthy, and independent as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the caring professionals of the therapeutic recreation profession for the services and care that they provide every day.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS MAROVICH, JR.

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a young man who gave his life last week while fighting the Backbone Fire in the Trinity Alps wilderness.

Thomas Marovich, Jr. was just 20 years old. He was in his second year with the U.S. Forest Service assigned to the Modoc National Forest. He was training with the Chester Helitack crew assigned to the Backbone Fire when a training accident claimed his life.

He was born and raised in Hayward, but he had come to Northeastern California to protect our forests, our communities, and our citizens from the