

veterans in this country by not fulfilling the promises that we've made to them. The way that we can get more people into the military, the way that we can get more folks, good people, who will be willing to serve our Nation, is to be able to fulfill the promises that we give them on enlistment or on a commissioning.

We are not doing that. We are not fulfilling those promises. We are not giving those people the kind of health care that they so desperately need, and we are certainly not helping their spouses, because we are not giving them the health care financing that they need either.

So, Mr. Speaker, I rise today not only in support of this bill to name this facility in Knoxville after this hero, but we have to remember the heroes in Iraq and in Afghanistan today, those heroes I see at the VA hospital in Augusta, Georgia—the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center—those heroes I see at the Eisenhower Medical Center in Fort Gordon, Georgia, those heroes who have lost a leg or an arm, those heroes who want to go back to their units in theater to continue to fight for our freedom.

We cannot turn our backs upon those heroes, just like we cannot turn our backs upon the past heroes. I think it's a travesty the way this government has treated our veterans. We're not doing them right. It verges on criminal because we have broken our promises, and we need to fulfill those promises, and I'll do everything I can as a Member of Congress in supporting the veterans in my 10th Congressional District in Georgia. As a physician, I understand their medical needs. I'll do everything I can as the Congressman from the 10th Congressional District of Georgia to make sure that our veterans have all of the promises made to them fulfilled. This government has broken promises. It continues to break promises. It has got to stop, and I'll do everything I can to fulfill those promises.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Before yielding back, I would just like to again thank the gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. DUNCAN, for bringing forward this, really, very nice and very timely recognition of Mr. Tallent. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 402.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. I thank Mr. DUNCAN for bringing us this wonderful story of Bill Tallent, and I urge my colleagues to unanimously support H.R. 402.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 402.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. 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.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF JUNE 22 METRORAIL CRASH

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 612) expressing the profound sympathies of the House of Representatives for the victims of the tragic Metrorail accident on Monday, June 22, 2009, and for their families, friends, and associates.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 612

Whereas late in the afternoon on Monday, June 22, 2009, two 6-car trains on the Metrorail Red Line, Train 112 and Train 214, were on the same track headed toward the Shady Grove Station;

Whereas at 4:59 p.m., Train 112 crashed into Train 214, which was waiting for another train boarding at the Fort Totten Station;

Whereas 9 people died in this accident, including train operator Jeanice McMillan, 42, of Springfield, Virginia, who loved her job and was filled with pride when her son Jordan enrolled in college; Ana Fernandez, 40, originally from El Salvador, who lived in Hyattsville, Maryland, with her husband and 6 children and was on her way to one of her two jobs when she died in the collision; and 7 residents of the District of Columbia: Mary Doolittle, 59, of Northwest, who was the face of the American Nurses Association internationally and who was helping with global accreditation for nurses; Veronica Dubose, 29, of Northwest, who was headed to her first day of school for classes to become a certified nurse; Dennis Hawkins, 64, of Southeast, who worked as a non-instructional aide and a data entry clerk for Whittier Education Center and taught vacation Bible school at Bethesda Baptist Church; LaVonda ("Nikki") King, 23, of Northeast, a mother of 2 sons who was engaged to be married and who had just bought the hair salon LaVonda's House of Beauty; General David Wherley, 62, of Southeast, the recently retired commander of the D.C. Army and Air National Guard, a command pilot who converted the D.C. National Guard from weekend warriors to Army troops performing the duties of enlisted soldiers in fields of battle in both Iraq and Afghanistan while working tirelessly to improve conditions at home for the people of the District of Columbia, especially the children, and who decided to make the city his home; his wife, Ann Wherley, 62, who retired as a mortgage banker but did not retire as a mother, grandmother, and loving wife of General Wherley ever since they were high school sweethearts at York

Catholic High School; and Cameron Williams, 37, of Northwest, who grew up in Takoma Park and who worked a night job in maintenance as a contract laborer;

Whereas according to emergency first responders, 76 people reported injuries and 51 people were taken to hospitals for treatment as a result of this accident; and

Whereas the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority voted on June 23 to establish an emergency hardship relief fund of \$250,000 from a reserve fund to provide financial help for the victims of the accident, including assistance with funeral, medical, and other expenses: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives expresses its profound sympathies for the victims of the tragic Metrorail accident on Monday, June 22, 2009, and for their families, friends, and associates.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced House Resolution 612 on July 7 with members of the National Capitol Region delegation as well as with others in the House. It is with a heavy heart that I call up for consideration House Resolution 612, which expresses the profound sympathies of the House of Representatives for the victims of the tragic Red Line Metrorail accident on June 22, 2009, and for their families and friends and associates, and also recognizes the dozens of people who were injured.

I appreciate the work and courtesy of Chairman ED TOWNS, of Ranking Member DARRELL ISSA, of Chairman STEPHEN LYNCH, and of Ranking Member JASON CHAFFETZ for their efforts in bringing forward this resolution and for seeing to it that the resolution was marked up at the earliest markup meeting of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Let us begin, Mr. Speaker, by allowing each of us to take a moment on the floor of the House today to remember the nine people who were lost as a result of this tragic accident. I ask for a moment of silence.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Seven of the nine were from the District of Columbia. One was from Maryland. Another was from Virginia.

Mary "Mandy" Doolittle, of the District, served the American Nurses Association by spreading its work globally.

Veronica DuBose, of the District, was a devoted mother of two who was on her way to a nursing class.

Ana Fernandez, of Hyattsville, Maryland, was a mother of six who worked tirelessly, often holding more than one job to help provide for her family.

Dennis Hawkins, of the District, was on his way to teach vacation Bible school at Bethesda Baptist Church.

LaVonda "Nikki" King, of the District, was a young mother who looked forward to opening her own beauty salon that was already planned to occur.

Cameron Williams, of the District, was headed to his nighttime maintenance job.

Of the nine, I personally know only Major General David F. Wherley, recently retired as commander of the D.C. National Guard, and his wife, Ann. General Wherley was a fighter pilot and commander of the 113th Fighter Wing at Andrews Air Force Base who rose to head the D.C. National Guard itself.

The general was especially devoted to his troops and to the children of the city, initiating programs for both. Ann Wherley, herself a professional, was a major force in the general's life and in his work. I thank the Appropriations Committee for honoring my request to have a D.C. tuition assistance bill named for the general, who was the first to bring this concern to me for introduction, and I will soon seek a proper authorization in a pending bill.

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Jeanice McMillan, finally, was the operator of train 112. All the available evidence showed that Ms. McMillan did everything within her power to avert the accident. Ms. McMillan worked herself up the Metro workplace ladder to realize her goal of sending her only son to college. Mr. Speaker, the loss of precious lives that resulted from the June 22 accident touched their families uniquely and tragically. However, I also ask the House to remember these families who share the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority system with several hundred thousand Federal employees and with our own House and Senate congressional staff. Today let us also share with those who lost their lives as well as with those who were injured our thoughts, prayers and our deep determination to do all that we can to assure improved safety for all. I urge adoption of House Resolution 612.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 612, expressing the profound sympathies of the House of Representatives for the victims of the tragic Metrorail accident on Monday, June 22, 2009, and for their families, friends and associates. Today we, as a body, express our profound sympathy and support for the victims of this most serious and worst accident in Metro's history.

On June 22 a train heading towards Fort Totten on the Red Line slammed

into an idling train in front of it and killed nine people and injured nearly 80 others. The crash occurred at approximately 4:59 p.m. We are greatly saddened by this unnecessary tragedy and senseless loss of life, but our grief cannot compare to the families and friends who lost loved ones that day. Today we extend our sympathies to those who were lost and injured. The nine Metro riders killed on that fateful day were from all walks of life, a reflection of our Nation's Capital and its residents.

As we express our sympathy for the victims, I would also like to commend the D.C. and regional emergency personnel who responded to the accident and did their jobs with competence and compassion. I would also like to recognize the heroism of the other train passengers who helped to free those who were trapped, fashioned tourniquets and comforted the injured. In addition to the death and injury to the victims, there's been tremendous damage done to the morale of Metro riders and to Metro's reputation. A recent Washington Post editorial commented on the crash as having "shattered many riders' assumptions about the safety of the system." Clearly there is much work to be done to ensure nothing like this terrible accident ever happens again.

But today in this House it is time we take a moment to honor and express our profound sympathy for the victims of this tragic Metrorail accident of June 22 and their families, friends and associates. I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing our sympathies on this day by passing House Resolution 612.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the majority leader, Mr. HOYER of Maryland, who has led the delegation on matters pertaining to WMATA, or the Metro, and especially this accident.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the chairlady, my colleague and friend, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON. I thank Mr. WESTMORELAND for helping this legislation come to the floor.

Today the House pauses in solemn remembrance of the nine men and women who lost their lives when two Metro trains collided on June 22. It was, as has been said, the deadliest crash in Metro's history. Those whose lives we lost were a cross section of our Washington region. They never asked or expected to be memorialized together, but they were brought together in tragedy. Together we can say their names:

Mary Doolittle, 59 years old, of Washington, D.C.;

Ana Fernandez, 40 years old, of Hyattsville, Maryland, my district;

Dennis Hawkins, 64 years old, of Washington, D.C.;

LaVonda "Nikki" King, 23 years old, of Washington, D.C.;

Veronica Dubose, 29 years old, also of Washington, D.C.;

Cameron Williams, 36 years old, also of Washington;

Major General David F. Wherley Jr., 62 years old, and his wife Ann Wherley, 62 years old, both of Washington, D.C.;

And lastly, Jeanice McMillan, 42 years old, of Springfield, Virginia. Ms. NORTON mentioned her activity and the professionalism with which she carried out her duties. It is clear that what happened was a computer failure or a line failure, some failure which was supposed to automatically notify the train that was moving that there was a train stopped in front of it. That mechanism failed. Today nine families are incomplete. There are nine fresh wounds that will be very slow in healing. Nothing, of course, can reverse those deaths; but we must learn from them, and we must act to prevent such tragedies in the future. On a practical level, we must ensure that funding is sufficient to accomplish that objective. On a personal level, we can choose to take from this the reminder of the fragility and uncertainty of our own lives and to act on that knowledge every day.

On June 22 we lost nine irreplaceable men and women. May we honor their memories by acting to prevent a future tragedy and by instilling confidence in the safety of America's subway.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, thank you, Ms. NORTON, for bringing this resolution to the House floor for its consideration.

Monday, June 22 tragedy struck Washington.

Around 5:00 p.m. at the start of the evening rush hour, Metro Train 112 struck Train 214 as it was waiting for a third train to finish boarding passengers at the Fort Totten Station.

Nine people lost their lives and 76 others were injured, 41 of whom were transported to nearby hospitals for treatment.

We are all saddened by the loss of life and I wish once again to express my condolences to the family and friends of those who suffered an injury or lost a loved one on that tragic Monday.

I also wish to express my appreciation to Metro and the emergency responders who were on the scene immediately with assistance.

As we gain insight on the cause of the accident, I will be working with my colleagues, many of whom are cosponsors of this resolution, to ensure this type of tragedy is never allowed to happen again.

We are in fact working to secure the funding to replace the older type "1000" rail cars that failed to hold up during the crash and any other resources Metro needs to restore full service.

The tragedy has brought us together as a region, and together we will work to make sure Metrorail remains a transportation system that is safe, efficient, affordable and secure.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my House colleagues in support of this resolution expressing sympathy to the victims of the Metrorail accident on June 22.

I want to share my heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those that lost their lives in this tragic accident.

The Washington metropolitan area congressional delegation has pledged to work together to ensure that Metro has the funding it needs

to address safety issues and to adequately maintain the system.

Again, I express my deepest sympathies to those affected by this horrible accident.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, on June 22, our legion experienced a terrible tragedy as two metro trains collided on the red line, resulting in 9 deaths and nearly 80 injured. I rise to express deep sympathy to the families of all those who lost their lives—Mandy Doolittle, Veronica DuBose, Dennis Hawkins, LaVonda “Nikki” King, Major General David Wherley and Ann Wherley, Cameron Williams, and train operator Jeanice McMillan.

I also want to especially recognize the life of my constituent, Ana Fernandez of Hyattsville. Ana will be remembered for her dedication to her family, especially her six children ages 2 to 21. She emigrated to the United States 20 years ago to secure a better life and worked tirelessly to support her parents and son back in El Salvador and her five children here in the U.S. She was able to realize her dream of sponsoring her eldest son for a visa, and he arrived only 18 days before the accident. Her family and community speak of her kindness, generosity, and indomitable spirit. I send sincere condolences to her children, her husband, her parents, and her entire family.

In the hours and days after the accident, we received reports of courage and kindness on those metro trains—from the passengers who comforted and assisted each other to the first responders who rushed to the scene and treated the injured. Almost immediately, local and federal agencies, including WMATA, the National Transportation Safety Board, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Tri-State Oversight Committee, as well as the Amalgamated Transit Union, got to work to find out what caused the crash and what must be done to ensure the safety of the system. I want to particularly commend John Catoe and the staff at WMATA for their efforts in these past few weeks.

Out of this tragedy, we must renew our commitment to America’s subway and make the safety improvements necessary to ensure that such a devastating accident never happens again. I am pleased that the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee included \$150 million for WMATA in its bill, which is the full federal share of the dedicated funding authorized by last year’s Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act. I urge my colleagues to support that vital funding. This accident must be a wake-up call—we cannot afford to wait.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, so I will yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, having no further speakers, again, let me urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 612.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 612.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. 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.

HONORING WAYMAN LAWRENCE TISDALE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 469) honoring the life of Wayman Lawrence Tisdale and expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on his passing.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 469

Whereas Wayman Lawrence Tisdale was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and became an outstanding athlete as a student at Booker T. Washington High School;

Whereas in 1982 Mr. Tisdale was named Oklahoma’s only McDonald’s All American and was named Converse National High School Player of the Year;

Whereas Mr. Tisdale’s 3-year career at the University of Oklahoma, from 1982 to 1985, has left a legacy of excellence and respect for the program and the sport of basketball;

Whereas Mr. Tisdale in 1983, 1984, and 1985 received the honor of being named Big Eight Player of the year for the University of Oklahoma;

Whereas Mr. Tisdale was named to the All-American team 3 times in 3 years while at the University of Oklahoma;

Whereas Mr. Tisdale played on the U.S. Olympic team in 1984 and received a gold medal;

Whereas Mr. Tisdale was named the Most Valuable Player for the Big Eight Tournament Championship in 1985;

Whereas Mr. Tisdale and was selected as the No. 2 overall draft pick in the National Basketball Association in 1986;

Whereas Mr. Tisdale left his mark on the sport of professional basketball with the Indiana Pacers, Sacramento Kings, and Phoenix Suns, scoring more than 12,800 points and pulling down more than 5,000 rebounds in a 12-year career;

Whereas Mr. Tisdale subsequently released 8 albums of jazz music following his extraordinary basketball career;

Whereas in 1995 Mr. Tisdale’s jazz album Power Forward reached No. 4 on Billboard’s Contemporary Jazz chart, and Mr. Tisdale’s album Way Up reached No. 1 on Billboard’s Top 10;

Whereas Mr. Tisdale has been an inspiration to those in the Jazz community;

Whereas Mr. Tisdale served as a testament and example to the power of perseverance and positive thinking in the midst of personal trial; and

Whereas Mr. Tisdale’s admirable character has served as a strong example to thousands of Americans to persevere and not be bound by one calling in life, but to achieve all which they hope and aspire to for themselves and their families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives expresses—

(1) gratitude to Wayman Lawrence Tisdale for his exceptional character and for the example that he served as a testament to the powers of positive thinking; and

(2) profound sorrow at the death of Mr. Tisdale and condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues, and to the State of Oklahoma that he represented so well.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

On behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to present H. Res. 469 for consideration, honoring the exceptional life of Wayman Lawrence Tisdale and expressing sincere condolences on his passing.

H. Res. 469 was introduced by our colleague, Representative TOM COLE of Oklahoma, on May 21, 2009, and reported out of the Oversight Committee by unanimous consent on June 18, 2009. Additionally, this resolution enjoys the bipartisan support of over 50 Members of Congress.

Born in Fort Worth, Texas, on June 9, 1964, Wayman Tisdale grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he developed his dual affections for the sport of basketball and what Wayman considered his first love, music. Notably, while Wayman was considered one of the most heavily recruited high school basketball players in the Nation, he always continued to play bass guitar during morning services at his father’s Tulsa church.

Wayman subsequently accepted a basketball scholarship from the University of Oklahoma where he was a three-time All-American from 1983 to 1985, including his freshman year, marking the first time that a freshman has been named as a first-team All-American since freshmen were allowed to play again in the 1971–1972 season. During his collegiate career with the University of Oklahoma Sooners, Wayman was also honored as Big Eight Conference player of the year for three consecutive seasons and still holds Oklahoma’s career record with 2,661 points and career rebounding record with 1,048 rebounds. In addition, he remained devoted to music, as he continued to play bass guitar at Sunday services in Tulsa and even played in the Oklahoma Sooners band.

In honor of his remarkable achievements as a Sooner, in 1997 Wayman became the first player in any sport to have his jersey number, number 23, retired by the University of Oklahoma and in April of 2009 was inducted into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame.

Prior to his selection as a second overall pick in the 1995 NBA draft by