

On the evening of February 12, 2009, Continental flight 3407, operated by Colgan Air, departed from Newark International Airport for Buffalo, NY. The 45 passengers and five crewmembers were just miles from the Buffalo airport when a series of events resulted in the death of all aboard as well as a father on the ground whose home was the unfortunate final resting place of flight 3407.

Over this last year and a half, I have gotten to know many of the families of the victims. They are a constant presence here in Washington, DC, working to improve safety conditions so that others are spared the same loss they have had to endure.

Sitting in my office last spring, as the NTSB began to release information on the crash, I discussed with the families the tremendous value of their advocacy. For decades the system has been slow to change and in the mean time innocent lives have been lost. We discussed the possibility of seizing on this very legislation as a vehicle for change—to bring accountability and transparency to the system—to strengthen the training requirements and push forward to achieving—not just “one level of safety”—but a “higher level of safety.”

As I speak to you today many of those family members are with us here in Washington. It is because of their tireless efforts—their unwavering pursuit for justice—that we are in a position today to take some of the most significant steps in improving the safety of the nation’s aviation system in years.

The measures we are considering in this extension are the result of bipartisan efforts in both the Senate and the House yielding a number of provisions that I have worked to advance—and that aim to bring increased oversight and accountability to the system that force the FAA to respond to the growing concerns over crewmember fatigue and commuting—that strengthen the training requirements for our commercial pilots to ensure that those who are trusted with the lives of so many have the critical experience needed to safely operate an aircraft and respond accordingly in the event of an emergency.

I want to recognize my colleagues, Chairman DORGAN and Chairman ROCKEFELLER, who have been working around the clock on trying to bring the FAA reauthorization bill to the floor. We still have work to do, and I look forward to joining them after the summer work period to see the larger legislative package, which is long overdue, sent to President’s desk.

It is my sincere hope, that these good people who have suffered such sorrow at the loss of mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters, husbands, wives that they can return home, their heads held high, knowing that they turned their loss into action, and that their efforts might spare others the same pain that they themselves have endured.

I thank the families for their strength. I thank them for their steadfast advocacy. The American people owe them a debt of gratitude for the work they have done over these many months.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD, without further intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5900) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, let me finally say that while I have mixed feelings about having done this—one regret and the other a strong feeling of accomplishment on the safety issues—I intend to come back to the floor in September, and if we have not made progress to resolve the FAA bill—I do not shout very much, but I said yesterday I have had a bellyful of this sort of thing—I am going to come to the floor and act very unlike a Lutheran Norwegian. You can count on that.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the following postal-naming bills en bloc: Calendar Nos. 489, 490, and 491—S. 3567, H.R. 5278, and H.R. 5395.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate; and that any statements relating to the bills be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NAVY CORPSMAN JEFFREY L. WIENER POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (S. 3567) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Broadway in Lynbrook, New York, as the “Navy Corpsman Jeffrey L. Wiener Post Office Building”, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3567

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

SECTION 1. NAVY CORPSMAN JEFFREY L. WIENER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Broadway in Lynbrook, New York, shall be known and designated as the “Navy Corpsman Jeffrey L. Wiener Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Navy Corpsman Jeffrey L. Wiener Post Office Building”.

PRESIDENT RONALD W. REAGAN POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5278) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 405 West Second Street in Dixon, Illinois, as the “President Ronald W. Reagan Post Office Building,” was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

PAULA HAWKINS POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5395) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 151 North Maitland Avenue in Maitland, Florida, as the “Paula Hawkins Post Office Building,” was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 602, submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 602) expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Infant Mortality Awareness Month 2010.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 602) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 602

Whereas “infant mortality” refers to the death of a baby before the baby’s first birthday;

Whereas the United States ranks 29th among industrialized countries in the rate of infant mortality;

Whereas premature birth, low birth weight, and shorter gestation periods account for more than 60 percent of infant deaths in the United States;

Whereas high rates of infant mortality are especially prevalent in communities with large minority populations, high rates of unemployment and poverty, and limited access to safe housing and medical providers;