

Storms like Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne can destroy the property of our State's valiant people. They can even test Florida's enormous reserve of physical and emotional energy, but they will not break our will or steal our heart.

As we consider legislation to assist hurricane victims, may we act in the same spirit and with the same courage and determination.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 784, which commends the resiliency of the people of the State of Florida and the work of those individuals who have assisted with the recovery efforts after the devastation caused by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan. As a Floridian and cosponsor of this resolution, I am proud to stand here today.

Florida is the most hurricane-prone State in the Nation. This season alone we have witnessed destruction from Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and, most recently, Jeanne. Homes have been damaged and in some cases destroyed. Power outages continue to plague many throughout the State. The agricultural industry has taken a beating by the devastation caused to crops and livestock.

And the hurricane season is far from over.

Mr. Speaker, Floridians are tired and many are hurting as a result of these hurricanes. But they don't give up. They rally together to help those in need, volunteering their time and resources to help their neighbors. Even individuals who are faced with repairing their own homes and businesses take time to help those with greater need first. This is a testament to the good will and hopeful spirit that I have come to admire and expect in the people of our great State.

I commend Floridians for persevering during this trying hurricane season, and I applaud all those who have assisted in recovery efforts. Governor Jeb Bush has done a great job leading, encouraging, and comforting the weary citizens of our State, and he is one player among a cast of thousands that is worthy of our praise. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives who have spent much time and many resources assisting Floridians. I also commend our local and State law enforcement officials, emergency workers, and public safety personnel for keeping order, directing traffic and rescuing stranded individuals.

There are too many people to thank to name them, but they know who they are. I encourage all Floridians to keep persevering and to keep helping one another. You are an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, passage of H. Res. 784 would show the people of Florida that the House of Representatives recognizes and values the manner by which they have dealt with this busy hurricane season. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution to commend Floridians for their hard work and patience during this difficult time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 784, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "Commending the resiliency of the people of the State of Florida and the work of those individuals who have assisted with the recovery efforts after the devastation caused by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 106, PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES RELATING TO MARRIAGE

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-705) on the resolution (H. Res. 801) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 106) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 107, MAKING CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2005

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-706) on the resolution (H. Res. 802) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 107) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2005, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3193, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PERSONAL PROTECTION ACT

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-707) on the resolution (H. Res. 803) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3193) to restore second amendment rights in the District of Columbia, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RETIREMENT PROTECTION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4657) to amend the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 to improve the administration of Federal pension benefit payments for District of Columbia teachers, police officers, and fire fighters, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4657

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 "District of Columbia Retirement Protection Improvement Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FEDERAL PENSION FUND FOR PAYMENT OF FEDERAL BENEFIT PAYMENTS TO DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TEACHERS, POLICE OFFICERS, AND FIRE FIGHTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XI of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (sec. 1—801.01 et seq., D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) by redesignating chapter 9 as chapter 10;

(2) by redesignating sections 11081 through 11087 as sections 11091 through 11097; and

(3) by inserting after chapter 8 the following new chapter:

"CHAPTER 9—DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FEDERAL PENSION FUND

"SEC. 11081. CREATION OF FUND.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established on the books of the Treasury the District of Columbia Teachers, Police Officers, and Firefighters Federal Pension Fund (hereafter referred to as the 'D.C. Federal Pension Fund'), consisting of the following:

"(1) The assets transferred pursuant to section 11083.

"(2) The annual Federal payments deposited pursuant to section 11084.

"(3) Any amounts otherwise appropriated to such Fund.

"(4) Any income earned on the investment of the assets of such Fund pursuant to subsection (b).

"(b) INVESTMENT OF ASSETS.—The Secretary shall invest such portion of the assets of the D.C. Federal Pension Fund as is not in the judgment of the Secretary required to meet current withdrawals. Such investments shall be in public debt securities with maturities suitable to the needs of the D.C. Federal Pension Fund, as determined by the Secretary, and bearing interest at rates determined by the Secretary, taking into consideration current market yields on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States of comparable maturities.

"(c) RECORDKEEPING FOR ACTUARIAL STATUS.—The Secretary shall provide for the keeping of such records as are necessary for determining the actuarial status of the D.C. Federal Pension Fund.

"SEC. 11082. USES OF AMOUNTS IN FUND.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Amounts in the D.C. Federal Pension Fund shall be used—

"(1) to make Federal benefit payments under this subtitle;

"(2) subject to subsection (b), to cover the reasonable and necessary administrative expenses incurred by any person in administering the D.C. Federal Pension Fund and carrying out this chapter;

"(3) for the accumulation of funds in order to finance obligations of the Federal Government for future benefits; and

"(4) for such other purposes as are specified in this subtitle.

"(b) BUDGETING, CERTIFICATION, AND APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The administrative expenses of the D.C. Federal Pension Fund shall be paid in accordance with an annual budget set forth by the Pension Fund Trustee which shall be subject to certification and approval by the Secretary.

"SEC. 11083. TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND OBLIGATIONS OF TRUST FUND AND FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL FUND.

"(a) TRANSFER OF OBLIGATIONS.—Effective October 1, 2004, all obligations to make Federal benefit payments shall be transferred from the Trust Fund to the D.C. Federal Pension Fund.

"(b) TRANSFER OF ASSETS.—Effective October 1, 2004, all assets of the Trust Fund and

all assets of the Federal Supplemental Fund as of such date shall be transferred to the D.C. Federal Pension Fund.

“SEC. 11084. DETERMINATION OF ANNUAL FEDERAL PAYMENTS INTO D.C. FEDERAL PENSION FUND.

“(a) ANNUAL AMORTIZATION AMOUNT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At the end of each fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 2005), the Secretary shall promptly pay into the D.C. Federal Pension Fund from the general fund of the Treasury an amount equal to the annual amortization amount for the year (which may not be less than zero).

“(2) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—For purposes of paragraph (1)—

“(A) the ‘original unfunded liability’ is the present value as of the effective date of this Act of expected future benefits payable from the Federal Supplemental Fund; and

“(B) the ‘annual amortization amount’ means the amount determined by the enrolled actuary to be necessary to amortize in equal annual installments (until fully amortized)—

“(i) the original unfunded liability over a 30-year period,

“(ii) a net experience gain or loss over a 10-year period, and

“(iii) any other changes in actuarial liability over a 20-year period.

“(3) SCHEDULE FOR AMORTIZATION.—In determining the annual amortization amount under paragraph (2)(B), the enrolled actuary shall include amounts necessary to complete the amortization schedules used for determining the annual amortization amount for payments into the Federal Supplemental Fund under section 11053 (as in effect prior to the enactment of this chapter).

“(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—During each fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 2009), the Secretary shall pay into the D.C. Federal Pension Fund from the general fund of the Treasury the amounts necessary to pay the reasonable and necessary administrative expenses described in section 11082(a)(2) for the year.

“SEC. 11085. ADMINISTRATION THROUGH PENSION FUND TRUSTEE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall select a Pension Fund Trustee to carry out the responsibilities and duties specified in this subtitle in accordance with the contract described in subsection (b).

“(b) CONTRACT.—The Secretary shall enter into a contract with the Pension Fund Trustee to provide for the auditing of D.C. Federal Pension Fund assets, the making of Federal benefit payments under this subtitle from the D.C. Federal Pension Fund, and such other matters as the Secretary deems appropriate. The Secretary shall enforce the provisions of the contract and otherwise monitor the administration of the D.C. Federal Pension Fund.

“(c) SUBCONTRACTS.—Notwithstanding any provision of a District Retirement Program or any other law, rule, or regulation, the Pension Fund Trustee may, with the approval of the Secretary, enter into one or more subcontracts with the District Government or any person to provide services to the Pension Fund Trustee in connection with its performance of the contract. The Pension Fund Trustee shall monitor the performance of any such subcontract and enforce its provisions.

“(d) DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—Notwithstanding subsection (b) or any other provision of this subtitle, the Secretary may determine, with respect to any function otherwise to be performed by the Pension Fund Trustee, that in the interest of economy and efficiency such function shall be performed by the Secretary rather than the Pension Fund Trustee.

“(e) REPORTS.—The Pension Fund Trustee shall report to the Secretary, in a form and

manner and at such intervals as the Secretary may prescribe, on any matters under the responsibility of the Pension Fund Trustee as the Secretary may prescribe.

“SEC. 11086. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS TO D.C. FEDERAL PENSION FUND.

“‘The following provisions of this subtitle shall apply with respect to the D.C. Federal Pension Fund in the same manner as such provisions applied with respect to the Trust Fund prior to October 1, 2004:

“(1) Section 11023(b) (relating to the repayment by the District Government of costs attributable to errors or omissions in transferred records).

“(2) Section 11034 (relating to the treatment of the Trust Fund under certain laws).

“(3) Section 11061 (relating to annual valuations and reports by the enrolled actuary), except that in applying section 11061(b) to the D.C. Federal Pension Fund, the annual report required under such section shall include a determination of the annual payment to the D.C. Federal Pension Fund under section 11084.

“(4) Section 11062 (relating to reports by the Comptroller General).

“(5) Section 11071 (relating to judicial review).

“(6) Section 11074 (relating to the treatment of misappropriation of Trust Fund amounts as a Federal crime).”

(b) TERMINATION OF CURRENT FUNDS.—

(1) DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FEDERAL PENSION LIABILITY TRUST FUND.—Chapter 4 of subtitle A of title XI of such Act (sec. 1–807.01 et seq., D.C. Official Code) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 11036. TERMINATION OF TRUST FUND.

“Effective upon the transfer of the obligations and assets of the Trust Fund to the D.C. Federal Pension Fund under section 11083—

“(1) the Trust Fund shall terminate; and

“(2) the obligation to make Federal benefit payments from the Trust Fund, and any duty imposed on any person with respect to the Trust Fund, shall terminate.”

(2) FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PENSION FUND.—Chapter 6 of subtitle A of title XI of such Act (sec. 1–811.01 et seq., D.C. Official Code) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 11056. TERMINATION OF FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL FUND.

“Effective upon the transfer of the assets of the Federal Supplemental Fund to the D.C. Federal Pension Fund under section 11083—

“(1) the Federal Supplemental Fund shall terminate; and

“(2) any duty imposed on any person with respect to the Federal Supplemental Fund shall terminate.”

(c) CONFORMING DEFINITIONS.—

(1) TRUSTEE.—Section 11003(16) of such Act (sec. 1–801.02(16), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: “, or, beginning October 1, 2004, the Pension Fund Trustee selected by the Secretary under section 11085.”

(2) D.C. FEDERAL PENSION FUND.—Section 11003 of such Act (sec. 1–801.02, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (16) as paragraphs (4) through (17); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) The term ‘D.C. Federal Pension Fund’ means the District of Columbia Teachers, Police Officers, and Firefighters Federal Pension Fund established under section 11081.”

(d) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 11041(b) of such Act (sec. 1–809.01(b),

D.C. Official Code) is amended in the heading by striking “FROM TRUST FUND”.

(e) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents of subtitle A of title XI of such Act is amended—

(1) by adding at the end of the items relating to chapter 4 the following:

“Sec. 11036. Termination of Trust Fund.”;

(2) by adding at the end of the items relating to chapter 6 the following:

“Sec. 11056. Termination of Federal Supplemental Fund.”;

(3) by redesignating the item relating to chapter 9 as relating to chapter 10;

(4) by redesignating the items relating to sections 11081 through 11087 as relating to sections 11091 through 11097; and

(5) by inserting after the items relating to chapter 8 the following:

“CHAPTER 9—DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FEDERAL PENSION FUND

“Sec. 11081. Creation of Fund.

“Sec. 11082. Uses of Amounts in Fund.

“Sec. 11083. Transfer of Assets and Obligations of Trust Fund and Federal Supplemental Fund.

“Sec. 11084. Determination of Annual Federal Payment Into D.C. Federal Pension Fund.

“Sec. 11085. Administration Through Pension Fund Trustee.

“Sec. 11086. Applicability of Other Provisions to D.C. Federal Pension Fund.”.

SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATION OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUDICIAL RETIREMENT AND SURVIVORS ANNUITY FUND.

(a) PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING DENIED BENEFIT CLAIMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 11–1570(c), D.C. Official Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3)(A) In accordance with procedures approved by the Secretary, the Secretary shall provide to any individual whose claim for a benefit under this subchapter has been denied in whole or in part—

“(i) adequate written notice of such denial, setting forth the specific reasons for the denial in a manner calculated to be understood by the average participant in the program of benefits under this subchapter; and

“(ii) a reasonable opportunity for a full and fair review of the decision denying such claim.

“(B) Any factual determination made by the Secretary pursuant to this paragraph shall be presumed correct unless rebutted by clear and convincing evidence. The Secretary’s interpretation and construction of the benefit provisions of this subchapter shall be entitled to great deference.”

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to claims for benefits which are made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) TREATMENT OF MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUND AMOUNTS AS FEDERAL CRIME.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 11–1570, D.C. Official Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(1) The provisions of section 664 of title 18, United States Code (relating to theft or embezzlement from employee benefit plans), shall apply to the Fund.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF RETIREMENT PROGRAM FOR POLICE OFFICERS, FIRE FIGHTERS, AND TEACHERS BY OTHER THAN CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 424(c)(21) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (sec. 1–204.24c(21), D.C. Official Code) is amended by

striking "systems" and inserting the following: "systems (other than the retirement system for police officers, fire fighters, and teachers)".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2005 and each succeeding fiscal year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 4657, a bill to improve the administration of Federal pension benefit payments for District of Columbia teachers, police officers, and firefighters. This simple reform will streamline the pension process for these individuals and the Federal Government. H.R. 4657 will transfer pension benefit assets that are currently held in two Federal trust funds to a single, newly created trust fund.

The bill also extends to retired judges the same rights of review of benefit denials. These rights include the same review standards for benefits that currently apply to retirees in the D.C. Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Plan.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is the Treasury Department presently uses unnecessary resources to maintain two pension funds when only one is needed. H.R. 4657 corrects this. This bill is budget neutral, and I support the passage and am pleased to be joined tonight by the distinguished gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), who are also cosponsors of this legislation.

Under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, the Treasury Department and the District of Columbia share responsibility for the D.C. Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Plan and under the defined benefit retirement plan for all District judges.

Originally two separate retirement funds, the Supplemental Fund and the Trust Fund, were created. Unlike the Trust Fund, the assets of the Supplemental Fund had to be invested in public debt securities. This provision was dropped 2 years later as part of an appropriations act, thereby eliminating the primary reason for having two separate funds. So instead of admin-

istering two similar funds, the passage of this legislation promotes greater efficiency in the management of D.C. pensions. It also extends to retired judges the same rights of review of benefits denial that currently apply to those in the D.C. Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Plan. This is a matter of fairness and transparency. The retired judges would receive the same standards of review for factual determinations, interpretations, and construction of benefit provisions.

Finally, H.R. 4657 would also transfer administration of the retirement plans from the District of Columbia Office of Financial Operations and Systems in the Chief Financial Officer's Office to the District of Columbia Retirement Board.

The passage of this bill is beneficial to pensioners and the Treasury Department as it promotes more efficient accounting and investing and extends similar treatment to pensioners in all three retirement programs.

I urge my colleagues to support it, and I thank my colleagues for working with me on it.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4657, the District of Columbia Retirement Protection Improvement Act of 2004. I agree with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the time has come to simply provide protection, and the best of protection, to those individuals in the District of Columbia who are in need of reform of their pension.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and for his help and support and work on this bill. And I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), chairman of the full committee, for his help on this bill and his help on so many other bills that enabled the District to function more efficiently.

H.R. 4657 is a significant management efficiency win for the District of Columbia because the bill streamlines the administration of what has been a very complicated pension benefit system for D.C. teachers, police, and firefighters.

I want to thank the chairman and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), Democratic whip, both for their leadership in bringing this important piece of legislation forward.

The legislation promotes more efficient investment, accounting, and financial reporting of two pension funds, the D.C. Federal Pension Liability Trust Fund and the Federal Supplemental D.C. Pension Fund, simply by combining the two funds into a newly created D.C. Teachers, Police, and Firefighters Pension Fund.

The bill also puts into law the appeal rights of those covered by the judges' retirement plan. Employees covered by this plan already have by regulation the same appeal rights as police officers, firefighters, and teachers. This legislation simply codifies those regulations.

In 1997 the Department of Treasury assumed responsibility for the D.C. Teachers' Retirement Plan and the Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Plan. These plans, combined, cover over 11,000 people who retired as of June 30, 1997. Since 1997 about 2,000 additional people have retired and approximately 9,000 teachers, police officers, and firefighters are still working. These individuals are covered by the D.C. Retirement Fund. Currently the District of Columbia Retirement Board has oversight of the investment of the fund while the D.C. Office of Pay and Retirement Services, which is under the Chief Financial Officer, and the D.C. Office of Personnel share oversight of the noninvestment benefit administration functions, including pension benefit determinations and calculations and informing the employees about the retirement fund and counseling them on their benefits and sending out the checks.

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What I just said shows you how this issue has simply grown topsy without anybody thinking through how to bring it together and make it more efficient, because that was almost indecipherable. Imagine if you had to administer this fund trying to figure that out.

Thanks to your leadership, Mr. Chairman, and your willingness to amend this act, the bill now includes a critical provision that will create significant management efficiency for the D.C.-administered retirement plan by giving the D.C. Retirement Board oversight authority over both the investment and the non-investment activities.

This change in law brings the District in line with most State and local retirement plans. This change in local benefits administration was enacted into law by the Mayor and D.C. City Council. Because it amends the Home Rule Charter, congressional action was also required.

I thank you again, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank my colleagues for their work and support on this bill, and urge them to support and vote for H.R. 4657.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support The District of Columbia Retirement Protection Improvement Act of 2004, which I sponsored with Representative TOM DAVIS. This bill makes simple and commonsense improvements to streamline the administration of pension benefits for District of Columbia teachers, police officers, and firefighters.

This legislation eliminates duplication and promotes efficiency in the investment and accounting of D.C. pension funds. In 1997 Congress created two separate funds that operated under different rules. However, Congress has long since acted to eliminate the distinctions between the two funds. This legislation

will take the logical next step of consolidating the two funds and replacing them with the newly created D.C. Teachers, Police, and Firefighters Pension Fund.

I am also pleased that we were able to include provisions supported by Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and the City government to transfer administration of retirement programs for D.C. Police Officers, Firefighters, and Teachers from the office of the Chief Financial Officer to the D.C. Retirement Board. This provision will consolidate responsibility of retirement benefits and has already been approved by the D.C. Government, but can only go into effect with Congressional action.

Last year, I was pleased to join Congressman DAVIS in sponsoring another bill affecting retirement funds for D.C. Police Officers and Firefighters, the D.C. Military Retirement Equity Act, which was signed into law on November 22, 2003. That law allowed retired D.C. Police Officers, Firefighters, Park Police Officers, and Secret Service employees to "buy back" military service time and credit it toward their retirement in order to avoid cost reductions in their monthly benefit payments.

These changes today will improve the management of pension funds for D.C. Police Officers, Firefighters, and Teachers, many of whom work in the District of Columbia but reside in my home State of Maryland. Police Officers, Firefighters, and Teachers serve our communities every day to ensure that our children are educated, our streets are safer, and our neighborhoods are protected. I am pleased to take this small step to improve the administration of pension benefits for these workers.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4657, 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.

MARTHA PENNINO POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5133) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11110 Sunset Hills Road in Reston, Virginia, as the "Martha Pennino Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5133

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

SECTION 1. MARTHA PENNINO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11110 Sunset Hills Road in Reston, Virginia, shall

be known and designated as the "Martha Pennino 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 Martha Pennino Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5133.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5133, sponsored by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), designates the postal facility in Reston, Virginia, as the Martha Pennino Post Office. The entire Virginia delegation supports this legislation, and I am pleased to join them tonight.

On September 17, Virginia's Fairfax County, which I represent, lost one of its most influential community leaders, Martha Pennino. I rise tonight to honor and remember Martha Virginia Pennino, a former vice chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, with whom I served for 12 years on the board.

Mrs. Pennino died September 17, 2004, at Inova Fairfax Hospital at the age of 86, leaving a long and lasting legacy.

Known as Mother Fairfax, Mrs. Pennino was born in 1918 in Roanoke, Virginia, and was raised in Gloucester, Massachusetts. She received a bachelor's degree from Emerson College in Boston.

Mrs. Pennino served three terms on the Vienna Town Council prior to being elected to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in November 1967, representing what was then the Centreville District.

From 1968 to 1991, Mrs. Pennino was at the center of nearly every major decision made in Fairfax County. She was involved with such projects as the Dulles Toll Road, the Reston Hospital Center, South Lakes High School, the Reston Community Center, and the Reston Regional Library.

Mrs. Pennino played an instrumental role in the planned community of Reston, which was taking shape when she took office and was also critical in getting Interstate 66 built inside the beltway.

During her years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Mrs. Pennino was deeply committed to help-

ing the poor and homeless. She pushed for the building of the Embury Rucker shelter for the homeless, supported building low-cost housing, and buying and renovating the rundown Stonegate apartment complex. Prior to the construction of the shelter, she even provided cots in her supervisor's office and opened it at night for people with nowhere else to go.

Mrs. Pennino received many accolades for her work in Fairfax County. In 1985, she was awarded the Tom Bradley Regional Leadership Award from the National Association of Regional Councils. The group cited her efforts in developing the first energy policy for a metropolitan area, the region's car-pool program, and a fair-share housing program. *Washingtonian Magazine* named her *Washingtonian of the Year*.

Mrs. Pennino was also involved with many community boards and foundations. She was a member of the Advisory Board of the Northern Virginia Youth Services Coalition, director of the Northern Virginia Community Foundation, a commissioner on the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, and a member of the Board of Visitors of George Mason University.

Additionally, Mrs. Pennino served as President of the Virginia Association of Counties of the Virginia Municipal League and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments for 17 years, holding posts of president and chairman.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to express my gratitude to Martha Virginia Pennino for her service to Fairfax County and the mark she has left on her community. She will be sorely missed. In recognition of her dedicated service, I ask that the Reston Post Office be renamed in her honor.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I very much thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), the chairman of the committee, who I know felt very strongly about Martha, having served with her, and was a close friend to her.

As my friend said, on September 17, Fairfax County lost one of its most important and influential citizens ever. Martha Pennino was known as Mother Fairfax. Through her leadership, Martha Pennino helped oversee development of Fairfax County into one of the most successful jurisdictions in the entire country. She was a kind and compassionate public servant who made sure that all people were treated fairly, regardless of their circumstance.

Born in Roanoke, Virginia, as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) said, she grew up in Gloucester, Massachusetts. She lived for many