

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THURGOOD MARSHALL UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 653) to designate the U.S. courthouse under construction in White Plains, NY, as the "Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 653

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse under construction at 300 Quarropas Street in White Plains, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Thurgood Marshall 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 "Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST].

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 653, a bill which designates the U.S. courthouse under construction in White Plains, NY, as the "Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse."

Thurgood Marshall was born in Baltimore, MD. He graduated cum laude from Lincoln University in 1930, and graduated at the top of his class from the Howard University School of Law in 1933.

As a graduate of college and professional school during the Great Depression, Thurgood Marshall was a member of the black elite. However, he was constrained by a social structure which tended to frustrate the aspirations of black people.

Upon graduation from law school, Justice Marshall began his legal career with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [NAACP]. It was during this tenure, as chief counsel, that he organized efforts to end segregation in voting, housing, public accommodations, and education. These efforts led to the landmark Supreme Court decision of Brown versus Board of Education, which declared segregation in public schools to be unconstitutional.

In 1961, Justice Marshall was appointed to the second circuit court of appeals by President John F. Kennedy, and 4 years later was chosen by Presi-

dent Lyndon B. Johnson to be the first black Solicitor General. Two years later, on June 13, 1967, President Johnson chose Marshall to become the first black Justice of the Supreme Court, where he served with distinction until his retirement in 1991. He died in 1993.

It is a fitting tribute to name a courthouse in honor of this American who believed in equal justice for all Americans, and devoted his life to obtaining the values we all hold dear.

I strongly urge all Members to support this bill.

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR], distinguished ranking Member.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, again we bring to the floor a bill that passed this body in the 103d Congress but did not make it through the other body. I am very appreciative of the efforts of our chairman, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST], and our senior Democrat, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT], for bringing forward this bill to honor Judge Thurgood Marshall. No one, no one deserves our respect and appreciation for the work in civil rights more than Justice Marshall.

□ 1530

His leadership, going back to the famed Board of Education case, all through his service on the Supreme Court, is one of the high points, one of the storied chapters in American jurisprudence. He is a man, if we are going to name a building for anyone, a Federal courthouse for any person associated with the law in this country, we should do it for Justice Thurgood Marshall.

We do that today. I hope the other body will act promptly and decisively on this legislation. It is appropriate that we have a landmark, that there be many in this land to honor Justice Thurgood Marshall.

At the beginning of the 103d Congress a bill was passed to name the Judiciary Building here on Capitol hill after Judge Marshall. H.R. 653 would further acknowledge the contributions of Judge Marshall by designating the U.S. courthouse in White Plains, NY, the "Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse." He exemplified the highest ideals of fairness and equality and his struggle against the evils of intolerance and bigotry spanned over five decades.

Upon graduation from Howard University School of Law, Justice Marshall embarked on a legal career with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [NAACP]. In 1940, he became the head of the newly formed NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, a post that he held for 20 years. It was during this tenure as chief counsel that Justice Marshall organized efforts to end segregation in voting, housing, public accommodations, and education. These efforts led to a series of cases grouped under the title of Brown versus Board of Education, in which Marshall argued

and convinced the Supreme Court to declare segregation in public schools unconstitutional.

In 1961, Marshall was appointed to the second circuit court of appeals by President John F. Kennedy. Four years after he received appointment to the appeals court, President Lyndon B. Johnson chose Justice Marshall to be the Nation's first black solicitor general.

Two years later, on June 13, 1967, President Johnson chose Marshall to become the first black Justice of the Supreme Court where he served with distinction until his retirement in 1991. He died in 1993.

This bill enjoys broad, bipartisan support from the New York delegation as well as the Westchester County Board of Legislators, the Common Council of White Plains, the White Plains-Greenburgh NAACP, the African-American Federation of Westchester, and the Westchester County Bar Association.

It is fitting to name a courthouse in honor of this great American who believed in equal justice for all Americans, and devoted his life to obtaining the values which we all hold dear.

I am proud and honored to support this legislation, and urge its passage.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the character and contributions of Judge Thurgood Marshall are without equal. Judge Marshall's struggle for equality and dignity for all people were absolutely of historical proportions. I believe it is an absolute honor to participate in this debate and have some little say in the naming of this building.

Mr. Speaker, with that I urge an "aye" vote.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the sponsor of this measure, Mr. ENGEL to express my strong support for H.R. 653, legislation designating the courthouse currently under construction at 300 Quarropas Street in White Plains, NY, as the Thurgood Marshall Federal Courthouse.

The naming of this courthouse is a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life and career to the cause of justice for those who were victims of bigotry. It was Justice Marshall, who successfully argued in the case of Brown versus Board of Education of Topeka, that separate schools for black and white students were inherently unequal. In 1965 President Lyndon Johnson named Justice Marshall Solicitor General, making him the U.S. Government's chief advocate before the Supreme Court. Two years later, President Johnson named Thurgood Marshall to the Supreme Court, thereby becoming the first African-American Justice in our Nation's history.

I cannot think of a more deserving individual for this honor. Justice Marshall dedicated his career as director of the NAACP's legal defense and educational fund, as a Federal jurist and voice on the Supreme Court, to providing equal opportunity for all Americans and ending discrimination in voting, housing, public accommodations and education. The American people were fortunate to benefit from the sound judgement and compassion that Justice Marshall brought to the Supreme Court.

Mr. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 653, a bill designating the Federal courthouse in White Plains, NY, as the "Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse."

Upon completion of his law education, Justice Marshall dedicated himself to the civil rights struggle. Whether as head of the legal defense and education fund of the NAACP, or as chief counsel in the Brown versus Board of Education case, Justice Marshall never slowed in his fight for equal rights for all Americans. He continued this fight as the Nation's first black Solicitor General, where he scored numerous victories in the areas of civil and constitutional rights. His career culminated in an historic appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1967, where he served with distinction until his retirement in 1991.

H.R. 653 is a fitting tribute to the life and work of our Nation's first African-American Supreme Court Justice, and I am proud to represent the district where the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse will be located. It is certainly an appropriate honor for this great American. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I, too, strongly urge an aye vote on this bill. I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 653.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended, and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WALTER B. JONES FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 840) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 215 South Evans Street in Greenville, North Carolina, as the "Walter B. Jones Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 840

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 215 South Evans Street in Greenville, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the "Walter B. Jones Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Walter B. Jones Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST].

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 840, a bill to designate the Federal Building and United States Courthouse located in Greenville, NC as the "Walter B. Jones Federal Building and United States Courthouse." Walter Jones was one of our most respected and accomplished colleagues ever to serve this Chamber. Born in Fayetteville, NC, Walter Jones began his career as a public servant when he was elected mayor of Farmville, NC in 1949. He served three terms in North Carolina State assembly and was in the midst of his first term in the State senate when in 1966 he won a special election to this Chamber to fill the seat left vacant by the death of former Member Herbert Bonner. He became a tireless advocate for the American worker and the American farmer. Walter Jones was reelected to 11 successive Congresses, serving in this Chamber from February 5, 1966 until his death in 1992. He was a member of the Agriculture Committee and served as chairman of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee from the 97th through the 100th Congress. As chairman of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, Mr. Jones committed himself to ensuring that the United States maintained a viable merchant marine fleet and marine industry. H.R. 840 is an appropriate and fitting honor to bestow on our former colleague and I urge all Members to support the bill.

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR], the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] for yielding this time to me, and I also thank our chairman, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. GILCHREST], for bringing this legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, it was my great privilege and pleasure to serve with Walter Jones on the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. We served in Congress together on that committee, worked together on a lot of issues. But what struck me was first of all he succeeded Herb Bonner, who was chairman of that committee and then in his own right became chairman of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. It is very unusual for one State, let alone one district, to have a succession of chairmanship of one particular committee.

But Walter Jones served in that capacity in a very unassuming, very affable, very warm, but also very knowledgeable manner, with a quiet, unsuspecting country humor. He would often break the tension in a very hotly

contested markup over some very difficult and hotly contested issues with just a bit of folk wisdom, or country humor, or an observation that would devastate one side or the other. He had that remarkable knack, that personality that just fitted the occasion, and he did not have to say much, and he usually did not, but what he said was compelling, and whether, as I said earlier, it was humor, or whether it was a bit of folk wisdom to enlighten a point, or whether it was to hurry a vote; when he called a vote, he said all those in favor say aye, aye, and everyone else jumped in, and, before they knew it, the bill was passed.

Mr. Speaker, maybe some of them wanted it passed or not, but they followed his leadership, and his wisdom, and his care about America's merchant marine, about our Coast Guard, about our marine environment, about endangered species, and that committee had jurisdiction over the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and he saw to it that that jurisdiction was carried out and that America's concern for our Marine Mammal Protection Act and for the endangered species of the great oceans of this country was carried out appropriately.

Mr. Speaker, for us to name a building in his honor is a very small, but deserved, honor, one that we can and that we should pay. The greater tribute to Walter Jones is the legacy of legislation that he left. But more importantly, the care that he had for the people he represented; he loved them and spoke of them often, and he represented them with great honor and dignity, and his legacy will carry on in the name that we give to this building in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, this honor is long overdue. Walter Jones' career spanned over four decades beginning in 1949 with his election as the mayor of Farmville, NC, then in 1955 to the North Carolina State Assembly, in 1965 to the State senate and finally in 1966 to the U.S. House of Representatives.

From his days in Congress, Mr. Jones worked hard and long for his constituents. He became a tireless advocate for the American worker and the American farmer. He was reelected to eleven successive Congresses, serving in the United States House of Representatives from February 5, 1966, until his death in 1992. He was a Member of the House Agriculture Committee and served as chairman of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee from the 97th through the 100th Congresses. As chairman of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, Walter Jones committed himself to ensuring the United States maintained a viable merchant marine fleet and maritime industry.

His stewardship of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee was recognized for its fairness and openness. I had the pleasure of serving under Chairman Jones on the Merchant Marine Committee. He was not only known for his dedication, hard work, humility and humanity, but he also had a quiet way about him that oftentimes brought great results.

Walter B. Jones was one of the most respected and accomplished Members ever to