

PETER J. McCLOSKEY POSTAL FACILITY

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2564) to designate the U.S. Post Office located at 450 North Centre Street in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, as the "Peter J. McCloskey Postal Facility".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2564

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 Post Office located at 450 North Centre Street in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the "Peter J. McCloskey Postal Facility".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States Post Office referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Peter J. McCloskey Postal Facility".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. McHUGH] and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FATTAH] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. McHUGH].

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

Madam Speaker, the legislation before us, H.R. 2544, designates the United States Post Office located at 450 North Centre Street in Pottsville, PA, as the Peter J. McCloskey Postal Facility. The bill was introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. HOLDEN] and cosponsored by the House delegation of the State of Pennsylvania in its entirety, in accordance with the policy of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

Peter McCloskey, a native of Pennsylvania, joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1944. In 1967, he was selected to join the Post Office Department as acting postmaster of the City of Pottsville, and then was reappointed postmaster. During his 23 years as postmaster, Mr. McCloskey has seen 30 of the employees that he has supervised become postmasters. He has been an active member of the Pottsville community for more than 60 years.

Madam Speaker, the Congressional Budget Office has commented that this bill contained no intergovernmental or private sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandated Reform Act of 1975, and would impose no costs on State, local, or tribal governments.

Madam Speaker, on four occasions previously today, we have honored truly deserving gentlemen. I think this one is especially appropriate because it is an opportunity to recognize the Postal Service's own, a gentleman who worked his literal entire adult career in the Postal Service in service to that great cause.

I think for that reason, particularly, this is a very, very fitting tribute for a

man who stands out, but probably is best recognized for the kind of dedication to the service that so typifies the over 800,000 postal employees who each and every day go out and make sure that all of us in this Nation receive our mail in a timely fashion.

So I would commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. HOLDEN] and thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FATTAH] for helping to bring this bill to the floor to pay tribute to a gentleman who represents all of the good and positive things that the Postal Service has stood for for more than 200 years in this Nation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2564 as introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. HOLDEN], a Member with whom I have had the opportunity to serve and who has provided a great deal of leadership here in the House and on behalf of the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, this bill is appropriate. We sometimes joke about the Postal Service in our country. Let the record be clear that we have the finest Postal Service anywhere in the world, and partly because of people like the gentleman we honor with the naming of this postal facility in Pottsville, PA, because we have dedicated people who work very, very hard, almost 700,000 people who work for the United States Postal Service. And I think that among these bills, it is, indeed appropriate that we would take one and name it after someone who has labored to help make sure that our Nation has a Postal Service that is really second to none in the world.

Madam Speaker, I am not surprised at all that the naming of a postal facility on behalf of someone who has worked for the Postal Service would come from my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. HOLDEN], because the gentleman is someone that we all know who has seriously applied himself to understanding the interworkings of the Federal Government and how it interacts and is relevant in the lives of the people who we attempt to serve.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. HOLDEN], my colleague.

Mr. HOLDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the proud sponsor of H.R. 2564, a bill to designate the U.S. Post Office located at 450 North Centre Street in Pottsville, PA, as the Peter J. McCloskey Postal Facility. I would like to thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. McHUGH] the subcommittee chairman, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FATTAH], ranking member, and all 21 members of the Pennsylvania delegation for cosponsoring this legislation and bringing it to the floor today.

Madam Speaker, Pete McCloskey has dedicated his entire life to serving his country, his Government, and helping people. He was born in New Castle Township, PA, on September 20, 1920, and graduated from Cass Township High School in 1938.

In February 1941, Pete married Catherine "Kitty" Mahoney. They are the proud parents of Ethel McCloskey Joyce and have four grandchildren: Patrick, Peter, Lalor and Kaeti.

In 1942, Pete joined the U.S. Army Air Corps serving with distinction as an aerial gunner instructor in the European Theater. Upon discharge from the Army, he worked for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. and was later appointed by Pennsylvania Auditor General as the supervisor for the Bureau of School Audits, where he served until 1967.

In 1968, he was appointed postmaster of the Post Office in Pottsville, PA. In his 23 years as postmaster of Pottsville, he earned the respect of the hundreds of employees he supervised, approximately 30 of whom moved on to become postmasters in their own right.

During his tenure as postmaster, and prior to that and since that, Pete not only earned the respect of his coworkers and his employees but of the entire community of Pottsville and of Schuylkill County, PA. Whether that be involved with civic organizations such as the Elks or the Rotary or the Lion's or the Knights of Columbus or with his church, Saint Patrick's.

After retirement from the Postal Service, Pete continues to be active in the community. He has served on the Pottsville Housing Authority Board of Directors. And the thing that most impresses me about Pete McCloskey is that he never looks to help himself; he is always there to help others with their problems.

Madam Speaker, I wish I could count the number of times that Pete has come to see me or other political leaders or other businesspeople in the community to say I have so-and-so who is in need of a job. They have a difficult situation right now and they need employment. Can you help them? Or the number of times he would bring a widow to my office and say, can you help with the black lung benefits? Or another constituent of mine who had trouble with the Social Security Administration or with the Veterans Administration. It is Pete who acts as an intermediary to try to bring those people to get help. He does that through my congressional office, with the county commissioners, with our State representatives throughout Schuylkill County and, in particular, the city of Pottsville.

Madam Speaker, here is a man who has dedicated his life to serving his community and, as was mentioned by the gentleman from New York [Mr. McHUGH], he is a retired worker from the Postal Service. I think it is proper and fitting that we rename the Pottsville Post Office for Peter J. McCloskey.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Pennsylvania for bringing this to the floor.

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I have no requests for time at this moment, and conclude with a final urging to my colleagues to supporting this very worthy legislation for a very, very worthy recipient.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, let me again thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. MCHUGH]. It has been a real pleasure to work with him on these bills and any number of activities that we have had to deal with over the course of this session thus far. I really do appreciate the level of cooperation and the spirit of bipartisanship. That is talked a lot around here, but in actuality is practiced by the gentleman from New York, and I want to publicly thank him for his efforts as we have worked together in these matters.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my staff, Denise Wilson and also Neal Snyder, for their work on these bills and other matters related to postal affairs.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. MCHUGH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2564.

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.

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GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2564, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

REREFERRAL OF H.R. 1249 TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure be discharged from further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1249, and that H.R. 1249 be rereferred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

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

There was no objection.

REGARDING MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL FORESTS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 151) expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should manage its public domain national forests to maximize the reduction of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere among many other objectives and that the United States should serve as an example and as a world leader in actively managing its public domain national forests in a manner that substantially reduces the amount of carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 151

Whereas carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas, can be removed from the atmosphere by trees through photosynthesis and stored in wood;

Whereas releases of carbon dioxide can be prevented by the use of wood products as substitutes for products whose manufacture consumes fossil fuels and releases substantial amounts of carbon dioxide; and

Whereas managing our forests by planting and growing our forest resources will remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that the United States—

(1) should manage its forests to maximize the reduction of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere among many other objectives; and

(2) should serve as an example and as a world leader in managing its forest in a manner that substantially reduces the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA], each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG].

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In December, representatives of 150 nations will gather in Kyoto, Japan, to sign a successor treaty to the United Nations 1992 framework convention on climate change. Today, as we anticipate this important event, we will debate a nonbinding measure putting the House on record as supporting proper management of our Nation's forests to maximize the reduction of greenhouse gases, among other important objectives. This resolution is similar to the Byrd-Hagel resolution passed by the Senate earlier this year that put them on record opposing any treaty that would cause serious economic harm to the United States.

Everyone agrees that we must have clean environment, but we must do it

in a way that does not impair or harm our economy. This resolution represents the fact we can have both a healthy environment and a vibrant economy.

By the Clinton-Gore administration's own economic model, the effect of mandatory reductions of greenhouse gases would be devastating to this economy of ours. The United States has an obligation to defend the rights of people who inhabit our planet. It seems that officials representing the United States in the climate change treaty negotiations have lost sight of that duty. Science has proven to us that carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas, can be taken out of the atmosphere by properly managing our forests. Carbon dioxide is kept out of the atmosphere by harvesting the forest before it begins to decompose or burn, thus storing the carbon in wood products that are environmentally friendly, as well as providing an economic benefit to society.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which may commit the United States to mandatory greenhouse gas reductions, could lead to enormous burdens and costs on the American people, the economy, and our way of life. The key issue is whether the Clinton-Gore administration will commit the United States to mandatory reductions of carbon dioxide.

Mandatory reductions will cost taxpayers billions of dollars and will cost many Americans their jobs. There are alternatives to mandatory reductions of carbon emissions. The alternative we bring before the Congress today is to properly manage our forests in order to take from the atmosphere carbon dioxide.

This means using the controls on greenhouse gases that Mother Nature gives to us rather than controls that Government mandates for us to follow. For that reason, we would move to agree on House Concurrent Resolution 151 and urge our colleagues to give it their full support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

As cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 151, I am proud to rise today in strong support of this important measure introduced by our distinguished chairman, the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG]. The chairman's legislation sends a crucial message. Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions constitute a serious problem of global dimension. We can begin, in part, to address and control gas emissions and the growing crisis of global warming by proper and prudent management of our national forests and Federal lands.

Madam Speaker, coming from the South Pacific, I am particularly sensitive to the related phenomena of