

was someone, as the chair of the powerful Subcommittee on Oversight of the Committee on Ways and Means, that cared about a good Medicare system, a good health care system, and worked hard to guarantee all Americans receive basic health care. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security, his work is credited with extending the life of the social security system.

I remember him telling me of his friendship with the Honorable Barbara Jordan, one of the predecessors of this particular congressional district, the Eighteenth Congressional District. I guess I remember him most by looking at a picture of the signing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and saw a number of Texans who were Congresspersons at that time gather in the room with President Lyndon Baines Johnson to sign that historic act.

But I am most mindful of the time that that occurred and the courage that was taken. I heard my colleague from Texas make a statement about his father, Henry Gonzalez. But I am reminded about the courage of Jake Pickle to sign the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and to give opportunities to those who did not have them. He was courageous in that, he was courageous in his service. Mr. Speaker, he is truly a great Texan and truly a great American. This building will truly be a very historic building by being named after J.J. Jake Pickle, H.R. 118. I ask my colleagues for support.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 118. This bill designates a federal building in Austin, Texas as the "J.J. Jake Pickle Federal Building." It is fitting, Mr. Speaker, that the building in which he worked for 28 of his 31 years in Congress, bear his name.

It is an appropriate memorial to a man who dedicated himself to his community and to his constituents. The residents of Austin remember Representative Pickle for his tireless dedication to the community he loved. When asked to describe his career as a Member of Congress, all sight his effective and efficient constituent service. I know that Representative Pickle gave selflessly of his time and energy. His 31-year career stands as a memorial to current and future Members, on how to conduct constituent relations.

During his 31-year tenure Congressmen Pickle took on several legislative challenges. In spite of the political risk he voted in favor of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This vote was to be the first in the line of a career dedicated to ensuring civil rights and equal opportunity for both minorities and women.

As chair of the powerful Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee, Congressmen Pickle recognized the value of the Medicare system. He worked to guarantee that all Americans would receive basic health care. As Chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee his work is credited with extending the life of the Social Security system.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear from his 31-year career in congress, his selfless dedication to his country and to the State of Texas, that the federal building in Austin should bear his name. J.J. "Jake" Pickle has set a proper example for this body to emulate and as testimony to that example I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 118, legislation that would name the federal building in Austin, Texas in honor of former Representative Jake Pickle.

The building is located at 300 East 8th Street in Austin. It houses district offices for Congressman Pickle's successor, Representative LLOYD DOGGETT, and Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, as well as local offices for the IRS, FBI and other federal agencies.

It is all together appropriate that these offices be named for Representative Pickle since they are where he worked for 28 of his 31 years in Congress.

For those of us fortunate enough to know him, former Representative Pickle is a very skilled storyteller and a man steeped in Texas and U.S. history. One can not speak with him for any amount of time without departing having heard one of his "yarns" about the legislative process or his work with President Johnson.

James Jarrell "Jake" Pickle was born in 1913 in Big Spring, a small town in the northwest part of Texas represented today by Congressman CHARLIE STENHOLM. He is a product of the Big Spring public schools and the University of Texas at Austin, where he received his BA in 1938.

After working as Area Director for President Roosevelt's National Youth Administration, Jake served 3½ years in the navy in the Pacific during World War II. Upon returning to Austin, he entered the radio and public relations business, later serving as director of the Texas State Democratic Executive Committee and as an appointee to the Texas Employment Commission. He resigned from the TEC to run for Congress in a special election called after the resignation of Homer Thornberry. He began his Congressional career in December, 1963.

Congressman Pickle wasted little time in demonstrating what sort of Member of Congress he intended to be. Despite well-founded fears that his actions might end his fledgling political career, Representative Pickle joined only five other Southern members who voted in favor of Lyndon Johnson's Civil Rights Act in 1964. Looking back on it, Representative Pickle says that is the one vote of which he is most proud and recalls with great fondness a personal phone call at 2:00 a.m. after the vote from President Johnson to thank him. Jake followed this vote a few months later with a vote in support of the Voting Rights Act and then spent the next 30 years working on behalf of civil rights and equal opportunity for minorities and women.

This was not the first or last time Representative Pickle faced the challenge of being the President's Congressman. He was a close friend and ally of both President Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson. His friendship with the former First Lady remains strong to this day.

Naming this federal building in Jake's honor is particularly appropriate because it houses his friend LBJ's apartment and office suite, preserved in all its early 1970's splendor. Jake's stories of working with Johnson on the Great Society, often in these rooms, are the stuff of Texas political legend. Jake stands as one of the few remaining personal historians of one of the greatest American Presidents.

Representative Pickle also distinguished himself as Chairman of the Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee. From that post, Jake worked tirelessly to rid the Medicare system of

waste and fraud, constantly laboring on behalf of those who rely on the Medicare system for their basic health care.

In addition, former Congressman Pickle served as Chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee in the 98th Congress and is widely credited with shepherding through Congress a legislative package that has extended the life of the Social Security system by decades. His work on behalf of the poor and the elderly complements perfectly his long-time commitment to civil rights.

Based on his long service to Texas and the nation, I believe H.R. 118 is a fitting tribute to Representative Pickle's legacy. I urge all Members to support its passage.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, it was an honor to preside over the House during the consideration of a bill naming a Federal building in Austin, TX, after Congressman J.J. (Jake) Pickle.

Congressman Pickle served in the House for more than 31 years. For 30 of those years he served with either my father or me.

In their service on the Ways and Means Committee, he and my father became the closest of friends.

I remember being told that on the plane returning from my father's funeral in Louisville, Congressman Pickle led the plane's passengers in singing some old-time hymns.

In fact Congressman Pickle was famous within the Congress for the stories he used to tell about the hymns sung at the Thursday morning House prayer breakfasts. Some people wondered if the stories were totally accurate or were, at least in part, made up by Congressman Pickle as he went along.

At any rate, Congressman Jake Pickle was a great and dedicated Member of the House. His love for others and for this institution shown through in everything he did.

I join my colleagues in supporting this bill, a very fitting tribute to a very kind man and great American, Congressman Jake Pickle.

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 118.

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.

#### JOSE V. TOLEDO UNITED STATES POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 560) to designate the Federal building located at 300 Recinto Sur Street in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the "Jose V. Toledo United States Post Office and Courthouse," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 560

*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 the intersection of Comercio and San Justo Streets, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, shall be known and designated as the "José V. Toledo 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 "José V. Toledo Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. SHOWS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 560, as amended, designates the Federal Building and United States Courthouse in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the "José V. Toledo Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

José Toledo was born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Florida and a Juris Doctor in law from the University of Puerto Rico Law School. Judge Toledo served on the Federal bench in the United States District Court, District of Puerto Rico, from December 1, 1970 until February 1980, when he died in office at the age of 49. At the time of his death, Judge Toledo was the chief judge for the Puerto Rico District.

Prior to his appointment to the Federal bench, Judge Toledo served as an Assistant United States Attorney, as a lawyer in local government in Puerto Rico, as a partner in private law practice, and served in the United States Army as a member of the Judge Advocate Corps. This legislation is a fitting tribute to honor the career and judicial contributions of the late Judge José V. Toledo.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. Speaker I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 560 is a bill to name the Federal facility in Old San Juan as the "José V. Toledo United States Post Office and Courthouse." The gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) introduced this bill in February of 1999 and is to be commended for his diligence in ensuring its passage.

Judge Toledo served the District of Puerto Rico with great distinction from 1970 to February 1980, when he died an untimely death at the age of 49 years.

Integrity, loyalty, patience, fairness, keen intellect and perseverance are words used by Judge Toledo's friends

and colleagues to describe him. Judge Toledo was born in Puerto Rico in 1931. He received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Florida and his law degree from the University of Puerto Rico Law School.

In addition to private practice, Judge Toledo served as an Assistant United States Attorney and in the local government of Puerto Rico. Judge Toledo also served in the U.S. Army as a member of the Judge Advocate Corps.

The building in old San Juan to bear Judge Toledo's name is an imposing structure, signifying solidarity and safety, and has guarded the entrance to Old San Juan for more than 300 years. It is fitting and proper this building then bear the name of Judge José V. Toledo, and I am proud and pleased to support this legislation.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ), the sponsor of H.R. 560.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS), and the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE), as well as the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) for pushing this bill through the committee and getting it on the floor for consideration today, and I would like to commend the clerk for his excellent Spanish accent. Very few people here pronounce those words the same.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the outstanding service of the late Judge José V. Toledo, today I am asking all of my colleagues to support this bill to designate the United States Post Office and the Courthouse in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the "José V. Toledo United States Post Office and Courthouse." Judge Toledo served on the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico from December of 1970 to February 1980, when he died at the early age of 49. He rose to the position of Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court, and he served with great distinction in that capacity until the moment of his untimely death.

Pepe Toledo, as he was known to his family and friends, was regarded as a man of paramount integrity and a loyal public servant. He was born on August 14, 1931, in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, and he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Florida in 1952. In 1956, he received his Juris Doctor from the University of Puerto Rico Law School, where I had the good fortune and the privilege of studying and graduating with him. During our law school years we became very close friends and studied together for our bar exams, and that close friendship lasted until his premature death.

Prior to his appointment to the Federal bench, Judge Toledo served as the

Assistant United States Attorney. He was a partner in several law firms, one of which he and I and another fellow started, and an attorney within the local government of Puerto Rico. He also served in the U.S. Army as a member of the Judge Advocate General Corps. Judge Toledo was also a distinguished leader of the Exchange Clubs of Puerto Rico. He demonstrated his value to the organization through his involvement and commitment at both the local and the national levels.

As expressed by the Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court in Puerto Rico, the Honorable Carmen Consuelo Cerezo, on behalf of the judges of the Federal Court of Puerto Rico, Judge José V. Toledo earned the respect of the public, the bar and the bench for his patience, impartiality, fairness and decorum in the adjudication of the controversies brought before him. Judge Toledo set high standards for himself, yet he had a refreshing humility and capacity to understand the problems of others. His hallmarks were learning and wisdom, tempered by a tremendous feeling for people.

The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse in Old San Juan, built in 1914, stands above the foundations of the ancient city wall that has guarded the harbor entrance to the city for more than 300 years. As a matter of fact, San Juan is the oldest city under the American flag.

Built only 15 years after Puerto Rico became a U.S. territory, it is listed in the National Register with the U.S. Department of Interior's National Park Service. The site represents the eclecticism of American architecture of the late 19th and early 20th century as it integrates American-Spanish Revival architecture, Sullivan's and Beaux Arts Neoclassical Revival styles. It has a 6-story annex which was built in 1940. It also demonstrates influences from the Vienna School and the Avant Garde movement. The Correo, as it has been known to generations of Puerto Ricans, is an imposing and beautiful structure which has stood magnificently within the old city walls as a symbol of greatness in times past with the importance of the U.S. Postal Service in Puerto Rico.

It is fitting that this structure so dear to us should carry the name of Judge José V. Toledo. The judges of the United States District Court, District of Puerto Rico, voted unanimously to recommend the naming of the Federal Courthouse in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, in honor of José V. Toledo, referred to the late judge as a learned jurist, outstanding citizen and an excellent human being.

Mr. Speaker, I am immensely proud to honor his memory and with this bill to designate the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the "José V. Toledo United States Post Office and Courthouse."

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

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. 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 Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 560, 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.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at the intersection of Comercio and San Justo Streets, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the 'José V. Toledo Federal Building and United States Courthouse'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GARZA-VELA UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 686) to designate a United States courthouse in Brownsville, Texas, as the "Garza-Vela United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 686

*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 located at the corner of Seventh Street and East Jackson Street in Brownsville, Texas, shall be designated and known as the "Garza-Vela 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 "Garza-Vela United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. SHOWS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 686 designates the United States Courthouse in Brownsville, Texas, as the Garza-Vela United States Courthouse.

Reynaldo Garza and Filemon Vela are two distinguished judges who sit on the Federal bench in Brownsville, Texas.

Judge Garza began his distinguished career in public service with the Air Force during World War II. Upon his return from the war, Judge Garza returned to private practice until 1961, when President Kennedy appointed him to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

In 1974 he became the Chief Judge for the Southern District, until he was ap-

pointed by President Carter to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. In April of 1997 Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist appointed him Chief Judge of the Temporary Emergency Court of Appeals of the United States.

Judge Vela, whose career in public service is equally distinguished, served in the United States Army, was the Commissioner for the city of Brownsville, and Judge on the 107th Judicial District, Cameron-Willacy County, Texas.

Judge Vela was a member of the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Magistrate Judges System until 1991, a member of the Judges Advisory Committee to the United States Sentencing Commission, and active in a number of local and State associations associated with civic and community activities.

This is a fitting way to honor two great judges who have dedicated their lives to serving their community and their country. I encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I join with the gentleman from Brownsville, Texas (Mr. ORTIZ) in supporting H.R. 686, a bill to name the courthouse in Brownsville, Texas, as the Garza-Vela United States Courthouse.

Mr. Speaker, this bill honors the life and works of two extraordinary Mexican-Americans. Judge Reynaldo Garza was born in Brownsville in 1915. He graduated from Brownsville Elementary School as well as Brownsville High School. After graduating from Brownsville Junior College, he attended the University of Texas, where he received a combined degree of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Law.

Judge Garza served his country during World War II in the Air Force. After the war he returned to Brownsville to practice law. In 1961 President Kennedy appointed Judge Garza to the District Court for the Southern District of Texas. President Carter appointed him to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in 1979.

In addition to his judicial duties, Judge Garza has long been interested in educational issues. He served former Governors John Connelly and Governor Mark White on commissions to improve the quality of education in Texas. Judge Garza recognized the importance of education in judicial proceedings and his concern for the uneducated man at the mercy of the unscrupulous people.

Judge Garza is very active in his church, and has served the Knights of Columbus in the Brownsville area for many years. Pope Pius XII twice decorated Judge Garza for his work on behalf of Catholic Charities. In 1989, Judge Garza was honored by the University of Texas with the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

His record of public service includes work with the Rotary Club, the Latin American Relations Committee of Brownsville, trustees at his law school, the Advisory Council for the Boy Scouts, and he was elected as City Commissioner of the city of Brownsville.

It is fitting and proper to honor Judge Garza's outstanding, rich life, his commitment to excellence, and his numerous public contributions.

Judge Filemon Vela is also a native of Texas and a veteran of the United States Army. He attended Texas Southmost College and the University of Texas. His law degree is from St. Mary's School of Law in San Antonio.

Judge Vela served as Commissioner of the city of Brownsville. He was an active member of the Judges' Advisory Committee to the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Judge Vela is a former law instructor and an attorney for the Cameron County Child Welfare Department.

His civic activities include being the charter president for the Esperanza Home for Boys and cosponsor of the Spanish radio program Enrich Your Life, Complete Your Studies.

Judge Vela's other civic activities include membership on the Independent School District Task Force and membership in the General Assembly of the Texas Catholic Conference. He is also an active member of the Lions Club. Judge Vela was nominated by President Carter for the Federal bench, and was confirmed by the United States Senate in 1980.

Judge Vela's career is filled with successes, commitment to his family, devotion to his religion and his church, love for his work, and respect for his colleagues. It is most fitting to honor Judge Vela with this designation. I join the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ) in supporting H.R. 686.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, Texas is known for many things—among them is an embarrassment of riches in the Southern Judicial District of Texas.

In South Texas, we have two judicial giants in the Rio Grande Valley for whom citizens throughout the area have asked that the new federal courthouse in Brownsville be named.

Judge Reynaldo Garza was appointed to the federal bench by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 and Judge Filemon Vela was appointed to the federal bench by President Jimmy Carter in 1980.

Both of these men have become legends in the South Texas area by virtue of their commitment to education and community.

Each have shown their respective dedication to the betterment of the next generation of South Texans by working actively with schools and young people.

Judge Vela has focused on the young people who have made mistakes or erred, by working with the Esperanza Home for Boys, heading activities to keep young people in school called "Enrich Your Life, Complete Your Studies," being part of the Texas Business and Education Coalition, and working with the Texas Young Lawyers Association Dropout Prevention and Literacy Committee.