

which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 149, H.R. 171, and H.R. 193, the three bills just considered.

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

There was no objection.

HIRAM H. WARD FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 92) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 251 North Main Street in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as the "Hiram H. Ward Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 92

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 251 North Main Street in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the "Hiram H. Ward 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 referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Hiram H. Ward 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 West Virginia (Mr. WISE) 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. 92 designates the Federal building and the United States courthouse located in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as the "Hiram H. Ward Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

Hiram H. Ward is a distinguished jurist who sat on the Federal bench for more than 20 years. He was born and raised in North Carolina and served in the United States Army Air Force during World War II. In 1972, President Nixon appointed Judge Ward to the Federal bench for the Middle District for North Carolina.

He served the Middle District as a judge and chief judge until 1988 when he elected to take senior status. However, even in senior status, Judge Ward continued to sit for an additional 6 years with the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

This is a fitting tribute to a dedicated public servant. I support the bill, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

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

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I also want to echo the words of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS), our subcommittee chairman, in recognizing Judge Ward for his many accomplishments and certainly echoing our enthusiasm for naming the courthouse the "Hiram H. Ward Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

Judge Ward became the chief judge in 1982. In 1988, Judge Ward took senior status. He was a member of various judicial committees, including membership on the Committee on Codes of Conduct of the Judicial Conference.

As an alumnist of Wake Forest undergraduate school and law school, Judge Ward is an active participant on the Board of Visitors of Wake Forest University. Additionally, he is a decorated World War II veteran and earned the Purple Heart.

The committee received numerous letters of support for this bill.

I will include for the RECORD letters of support and recognition. For brevity's sake, I will summarize these letters by saying that there is unanimous agreement on Judge Ward's outstanding contributions to the judicial community as well as his tireless efforts as a public servant.

I support H.R. 92 and urge its passage.

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

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE) for their work in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is not a case of first impression before this body. It was before us in the last session of the Congress and was approved by the House where it went to the Senate to unfortunately die on the vine because the Senate adjourned prior to addressing several proposals to name buildings in honor of outstanding Americans.

My friends, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE) have told us much about Judge Ward. As has been mentioned, he is an alumnist of Wake Forest University, which is not located in my district. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) each represent portions of Forsyth County in which Winston-Salem is located.

But I had the privilege of appearing before Judge Ward on several occasions 2½ decades ago as an assistant United States attorney. At that time, the United States Attorney was Bill Osteen who now himself sits as a United States District Judge in the Middle District of North Carolina.

As was mentioned by either the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) or the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE), Judge Ward distinguished himself prominently during the Second World War, amassed a very impressive war record during that time.

Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like to share a personal story which I think speaks volumes as to the man whom we honor today. This was the first appearance on the bench by Judge Ward. I do not recall the specific year, nor the month. But it was early in the morning, early in the morning by court standards, Mr. Speaker, 9:30, 10 o'clock. This was the judge's first appearance, as I say, as a jurist.

The first order of business that morning, my friends, was a naturalization ceremony whereby a German woman who had applied for citizenship was recognized that morning, and citizenship was in fact conferred upon her.

At the conclusion of the naturalization ceremony, the newly addressed American woman began to weep, and her sobs became almost uncontrollable. She was weeping heavily. Keep in mind, Judge Ward, although he was a seasoned trial attorney, he was nonetheless a rookie judge. This was his first day in court with the robe.

He looked down from the bench into the eyes of that sobbing German-born woman, and he said to her, "Madam, is there anything that we, the court, can do to assist you in your trouble?"

She regained her composure, and she said to Judge Ward, "My tears, Your Honor, are tears of joy." She said, "I am so happy to be a newly recognized American citizen, but I am weeping because my family and my friends are in Germany, and they are not here in Durham." This was in Durham, North Carolina. "They are not here in Durham to share this very special day in my life with me." Then her sobs became more softly expressed.

Judge Ward said to her, "Madam, most of the people in this courtroom today are Americans as a result of geographic consequences, where their parents happened to be residing at the time of their birth. But," he said to her, "you, madam, unlike most people in this courtroom today, are an American by choice. You have chosen to abandon your citizenship as a German woman, and you have become an American."

Mr. Speaker, I think I will never forget that exchange. Judge Ward's words were so comforting to her, she ceased her weeping, and her facial response expressed a smile. I think she even audibly laughed as a result.

I concluded then, I said, the calm, assuring manner expressed by Judge Ward that morning assuaged the discomfort that plagued and troubled this German-born woman upon whom American citizenship had just been conferred.

I concluded without saying so aloud that this man on the bench will become an outstanding jurist. My conclusion,

Mr. Speaker, was prophetic. Judge Hiram Ward has indeed become an outstanding jurist. I am pleased to be the sponsor of this bill.

I again thank my friends, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE) for their assistance, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Chairman SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the ranking member of the full Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I urge my colleagues in the House to vote favorably in passage of this proposal.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), my distinguished colleague.

(Mr. BURR of North Carolina asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am indeed honored to be here and rise in support of H.R. 92. This bill was previously unanimously passed by this body in the 105th Congress but was not taken up by the United States Senate.

We have heard about the human face behind Judge Ward by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Coble). Clearly, nobody can tell it better than the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Let me tell my colleagues a little bit about Hiram Ward, though. After his plane was shot down in a World War II mission over Burma, Judge Ward was decorated with the Purple Heart and the Air Medal. Soon after returning to the United States, he dedicated himself to his education and to his career.

Following that military service, he was quickly accepted and enrolled at Wake Forest College, now Wake Forest University that just had that large comeback against Florida State this past week in basketball.

Judge Ward went on to serve 20 years as a private attorney, gaining the highest respect from his peers and colleagues for his devotion, for his honesty, and for his hard work. Judge Ward's passion and his dedication to his work is echoed still today by his peers and his colleagues in North Carolina's Federal District Courts and the Fourth Circuit Court.

His reputation ultimately earned Judge Hiram Ward an appointment to the Federal bench by President Richard Nixon in 1972. By 1982, he had become chief judge where he would stay until 1988 when he elected senior status.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Ward is a man of commitment, service, and honor. He has provided North Carolina with the kind of service and dedication that I can only hope for in our future.

It is my sincere belief that the legislation currently before this House to designate the Federal building in Winston-Salem as the "Hiram H. Ward Federal Building and United States Courthouse" is both a fitting tribute

for a man who gave so much selfless service to his country and to the people of North Carolina.

I want to thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) as the sponsor for introducing this legislation. I want to encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I have no more 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. 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. 92.

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.

JAMES F. BATTIN FEDERAL COURTHOUSE

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 158) to designate the Federal Courthouse located at 316 North 26th Street in Billings, Montana, as the "James F. Battin Federal Courthouse," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 158

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 316 North 26th Street in Billings, Montana, shall be known and designated as the "James F. Battin 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 "James F. Battin United States Courthouse".

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 158, as amended, designates the United States Courthouse, located in Billings, Montana, as the James F. Battin United States Courthouse.

Judge Battin dedicated his life to public service. He was a Federal District Judge for the United States District Court of Montana, and also a former Member of Congress, having served in the House of Representatives from the 87th through the 91st Congress.

After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and ably

served for 3 years in the Pacific. After returning from military service, Judge Battin attended Eastern Montana College in Billings, Montana. He relocated to Washington, D.C. and was graduated from George Washington University Law School. He was later admitted to the D.C. Bar.

Judge Battin returned to Montana in the mid 1950s and accepted county and municipal attorney posts. He was elected to the Montana State House of Representatives and served in the State House until his election to the United States House of Representatives in the 87th Congress. He went on to serve four succeeding terms.

During his tenure in Congress he served on the Committee on Committees, the Executive Committee, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Ways and Means.

In 1969 President Nixon appointed Judge Battin to the United States District Court for the District of Montana. He served as Chief Judge from 1978 and took senior status in 1990. From the bench he diligently served the District of Montana, as well as additional assignments in the United States District Courts for Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Hawaii and Georgia.

Judge Battin passed away in 1996.

This is a fitting tribute to a distinguished jurist and dedicated public servant. I support the bill, as amended, and urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 158, a bill to designate the courthouse in Billings, Montana as the James F. Battin United States Courthouse.

In 1969 President Nixon appointed James Battin to the Federal bench in Billings, Montana, where he continued his four decades of public service to the citizens of Montana. In 1978 James Battin was appointed Chief Judge and served in that position for 12 years. He remained active in judicial affairs until his death in September of 1996.

Prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Battin served in the House of Representatives, representing eastern Montana. In 1960 he was elected to the Montana House and served until 1969, when he resigned to receive the judicial appointment.

While in this body, the House of Representatives, Judge Battin served on the Committee on the Judiciary as well as the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Ways and Means. It is interesting to note that Judge Battin's son continued that tradition, Jim Battin, and he currently serves in the California assembly, representing the 80th District.

It is fitting and proper to honor the extensive contributions Judge Battin has made to public service with designating the Federal building in Billings, Montana, as the James F. Battin United States Courthouse.