

Divisions, I was surprised to learn that the Medal of Honor, awarded to our veterans in the Nation's highest honor for their heroic efforts, is made primarily of brass. Congress awards its own gold medal to distinguished Americans, and this medal costs as much as \$30,000, and is made of gold. My legislation, H.R. 3584, would replace the brass in the Congressional Medal of Honor we award to America's brave Americans with gold. The Congressional Budget Office has indicated my bill would cost only \$2,300 per medal. I don't think that's too high of a price to pay for our most heroic Americans.

Many of the recipients of the Medal of Honor already paid the ultimate price for our Nation and for our freedoms and liberty.

We need to remember our veterans and think about them every day. There are more than 25 million veterans in the United States. There are 2,700,000 veterans living in California.

Today, I invite my colleagues who honor and respect America's veterans to join with me in honoring Alfred Rascon by supporting H.R. 4430, the measure to name the Alfred Rascon Post Office, and by supporting my bill for a more fitting Medal of Honor, H.R. 3584.

Once again, I wish to thank my colleagues for this opportunity. This is an honorable recognition for a highly honorable and courageous American, Alfred Rascon.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4430, to rename the United States Post Office in Fulton, Maryland, as the "Alfred Rascon Post Office Building". As a recent recipient of the Medal of Honor, there is no one more deserving of this honor than Alfred Rascon.

Alfred Rascon is an American hero who holds a special place in the hearts of Hispanic-Americans. An immigrant from Mexico, Rascon enlisted in the Army at age 17 because he wanted to serve his adopted homeland.

Mr. Rascon, who served as a medic in Vietnam, braved machine gun fire and grenade blasts to treat wounded soldiers. He twice jumped on top of wounded soldiers to protect them from grenades. In so doing, Rascon was shot in the hip and wounded by shrapnel when a grenade exploded in his face. Despite his injuries, Rascon grabbed guns and ammunition to give to U.S. soldiers so they could continue holding off the attack. His patriotism and courage are an inspiration for all Americans.

Although Rascon was immediately recommended for the Medal of Honor, his paperwork was never forwarded up the chain of command. Instead, he received the Army's second most prestigious award, the Silver Star. In 1993, his fellow soldiers learned that he was never awarded the Medal of Honor and petitioned the Army Decorations Board to consider the case. Finally, in November of 1999, after more than 30 years of waiting, Defense Secretary Cohen approved Rascon for the Medal of Honor. I was extremely proud to be present at the White House ceremony in February when Mr. Rascon was presented this award.

Alfred Rascon now lives in Laurel, Maryland with his wife and two children. Naming the Post Office in this community after Mr. Rascon is a fitting honor and will remind the residents of Laurel of his extreme courage and patriotism and will serve as an example for future generations.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this fitting tribute to our nation's newest Hispanic Medal of Honor winner, Alfred Rascon. Naming a post office building is reserved for those rare individuals who have distinguished themselves not only in one event, but through a career of service and excellence. Mr. Rascon is one such individual, who waited 33 years to receive the nation's highest medal for bravery on the battlefield. But during those years, he did not stop in his effort to serve his colleagues and his country. He currently serves as the Inspector General for the Selective Service System.

On March 16, 1966, while his platoon was under intense fire from a North Vietnamese unit in South Vietnam, SP4 Rascon risked his own life repeatedly to save the lives of wounded comrades and to prevent his unit from being overrun. While seriously wounded three times, he managed to perform his duties as a medic and save the lives of two of his fellow soldiers. On two separate incidents, he used his body as a shield to protect the wounded from the full force of incoming enemy grenades. Ignoring his own serious wounds from the grenades, he also managed to protect with his body another wounded soldier from incoming machine gun fire and grenades and carry that soldier, who was much larger than himself, to safety.

Mr. Rascon also risked his own life to help save his unit. Witnesses testify that he retrieved an M-60 machine gun and its ammunition, under fire in an open enemy trail, that was abandoned by an evacuated soldier. This act alone helped save the lives of the platoon members who were in danger of being overrun by the enemy. In addition to this and despite the fact that he was severely wounded, SP4 Rascon continued to search out the wounded and aid them. When the enemy was routed, he then supervised the evacuation of the wounded, refusing medical attention to himself until he finally collapsed. His wounds were so extensive that he had to be medically discharged from the Army.

While his acts of bravery as an Army medic in Vietnam have been recounted on several occasions, it serves as a reminder of the lesson we seek to instill in our children and all our citizens in all facets of life: never leave those who fall behind.

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

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). 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. 4430, 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 redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8926 Baltimore Street in Savage, Maryland, as the 'Alfred Rascon Post Office Building'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## MATTHEW "MACK" ROBINSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4157) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Lincoln Avenue in Pasadena, California, as the "Matthew 'Mack' Robinson Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4157

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

### SECTION 1. MATTHEW 'MACK' ROBINSON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Lincoln Avenue in Pasadena, California, shall be known and designated as the "Matthew 'Mack' Robinson 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 "Matthew 'Mack' Robinson Post Office Building".

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).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, one of the true privileges and frankly more enjoyable aspects of serving as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Postal Service is the opportunity that it provides I would hope all of us, but certainly, speaking on my own behalf, provides me to learn.

I think I am rather typical in terms of the average American who has heard many times over in his or her life about such great athletes as Jesse Owens, and as one of the giants of baseball, we have heard of Jackie Robinson. But I must confess, until very recently, I was not as familiar with a second Robinson, a gentleman by the name of Matthew "Mack" Robinson.

We have heard, of course, about the achievements of people such as those I have just mentioned. When we talk about Jackie Robinson, we talk about history. When we talk about "Mack" Robinson, we talk a bit less about history but a great deal about what made this country great, what made it special. That is simply through the contributions of people like "Mack" Robinson.

I would say that when it comes to achievements of athleticism, "Mack" has to take a back seat to very few people. He was a participant, along

with his younger brother, Jackie Robinson, and others with the 1936 Olympic team in that infamous event in Berlin. But beyond that, after returning home, he has achieved what I think is a very, very remarkable record of service to his community through his volunteer help and, perhaps even more importantly, through his character and through his leadership in leading the community of Pasadena from segregation to unification.

As I have had the opportunity, as I mentioned, to learn about "Mack" Robinson, I have learned how he served his community, how he cared about his neighbors. He became involved not for power or glory, certainly not for money, but because he cared about others and wanted to make today better than yesterday and hopefully tomorrow better than today. That is the kind of life I believe we can all learn a great deal from. That is the kind of inspiration we can all draw a great deal from.

The city of Pasadena just recently honored both "Mack" and Jackie Robinson by constructing a monument to them near City Hall. I think we owe our thanks to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN) for bringing us Mack's name as a fitting follow-on to that celebration and that honor in Pasadena by seeking to name the Matthew "Mack" Robinson Post Office Building.

The gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN) I would say worked very hard to achieve what we have always strived for here, and that is bipartisanship in reaching out to his fellow delegates within the California delegation. We have tried to work with him to bring us to this floor today in a position to enact a piece of legislation that is a fitting tribute to a very, very fitting individual.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in relationship to H.R. 4157, a piece of legislation to honor Matthew Robinson with the naming of a Post Office in Pasadena, California.

I would like to first of all indicate that unlike all of the other bills that we have brought before this House during my time as the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Postal Service, this bill apparently as of yet does not have all of the cosponsorships that we would require.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FATTAH. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding to me.

I think it is important for it to be pointed out, Mr. Speaker, that we have passed in this year alone 53 of these bills. During the time the gentleman and I have served together, we are in the several hundreds, if not more, and it is a hard record to keep track of.

But we have indeed passed, both through the committee and through

this House, pieces of legislation naming Post Offices that have not carried full State delegation sponsorship.

It is the policy of the committee to request that. In fact, that is a policy that I asked for when 6 years ago I became chairman, and I went to then full committee chairman Bill Clinger and suggested we were in need of a way by which we could have a second check, if you will, on the fitness of each of the candidates.

Along with Cardiss Collins, who was then the ranking member on the full committee, and Barbara Rose Collins, the ranking member on the subcommittee, we agreed that that would be not a rule but a policy.

When it has happened, as it has happened in the past, where Members have made a legitimate effort to secure full State delegation sponsorship and have been unable to, we have gone to those who have withheld their cosponsorship and tried to ascertain if it was related directly to the merits of the nominee, and where it was not, without that full State delegation sponsorship, we have passed the bills in any event. This was a process to check on the fitness of the nominees.

In fact, after the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN) came to us and in this case showed us documentation where he had reached out through his staff to each member of the California delegation on five separate occasions, I then wrote to each member of the California delegation who had not yet cosponsored his bill and asked if it was in relationship to the fitness of the nominee, because if it was, that is an important thing for us to know.

We have not heard back from all of them, but those we have heard from have all said that, no, it has nothing to do with the fitness of the nominee. That is frankly the only thing I am concerned about.

Mr. FATTAH. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from New York for illuminating the RECORD. Let me continue with my statement.

I think that this House should not be mired down in a foolish consistency on these types of policies, especially when it relates to a gentleman like Matthew Robinson, who has been an extraordinary citizen of our country and who has faced many obstructions.

Not only was he an Olympic athlete, and it is true that we could recount all of the facets of his life, but one I want to point to in speaking in relationship to H.R. 4157 is that it is true that the city of Pasadena just honored both Matthew and his brother, Jackie Robinson, but it is also true that when he returned to that city to work there in the city, he was fired at a time when all African-American employees were fired by the city of Pasadena as part of litigation related to desegregation and other matters taking place in California at that time.

I do not think that this House would serve itself well to delay this legisla-

tion as a result of the inability of the sponsor to get all of the i's dotted and t's crossed. I think what is most important is that this is someone who deserves this honor, and that we should move with haste to honor him in this respect.

I rise therefore in support of this legislation, and would hope that before it becomes a finality through this process, that there will be a time in which the entire delegation will have the opportunity to be cosponsors.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate, as always, the bipartisan support and contributions of the ranking member. I mentioned 53 Post Office naming bills we have acted on, through these four before us this week. That is 53. Twenty-three of those were sponsored by Republicans and 30 were sponsored by the minority and Democrats, so that bipartisanship has I think been very clearly demonstrated. I think it is an important part of our work and it certainly should continue.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN), who, as I said, has brought us this very distinguished nominee here today, and who has put a lot of work into reaching this point on the floor, for which I commend him on both counts.

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, first I thank my good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH), the distinguished subcommittee chairman, not only for his incredible help on this bill, but for the leadership he has shown. I know I speak for the Robinson family in thanking the gentleman for helping us to make this day a reality.

I also thank the distinguished ranking member, my good friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) for his support of this bill, I know I speak for the Robinson family in thanking the gentleman for helping to bring a broad bipartisan flavor to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues from across the United States to recognize a great Pasadena resident and public figure, Mack Robinson. Today we salute Mack on what would have been his 86th birthday, and we join together to pass legislation in his honor to name the historic Post Office in Pasadena after him.

What made Mack worthy of this recognition is not just one feat. It is not just his medal-winning performance in the 1936 Olympics or his accomplishments as a student athlete or his public service in the community.

□ 1200

What made Mack worthy of this great honor is the combination of all of these qualities, which, until the time of his passing earlier this year, were unknown to many outside of his hometown of Pasadena.

Mack's story is so inspiring. From humble beginnings, Mack became a respected community leader who influenced young people's lives.

Mack's reputation as a local track star piqued the interest of Olympic organizers. Over 60 years ago, Mack, along with another Olympic great, Jesse Owens, traveled to Berlin to compete in the 1936 games. In competition, it was reported that Mack's skill and technical ability on the track was so pure that he thought nothing of wearing the same track shoes that he wore in competition in Pasadena to compete in the Olympic village against the world's best and to win.

Mack earned his silver medal in that competition, with Jesse Owens winning the gold medal. Both of these great American Olympians portrayed a powerful image of freedom in the midst of a hostile and fascist Nazi Germany. Mack returned home to begin working in Pasadena as a city employee, and he also cared for his mother and for his family.

Mack eventually lost his job with the City, Mr. Speaker. As the New York Times later reported, Pasadena's African-American city employees were summarily fired in a desegregation battle when a judge opened the public pools and other facilities to all city residents.

Showing the same determination that carried him to triumph on the track, Mack never flagged. He channeled his energy and commitment back to his own neighborhood and to others throughout the city. He became a well-respected and widely known community figure, as well as an internationally recognized athlete. Mack volunteered countless thousands upon thousands of hours in gymnasiums, boys and girls clubs and after-school programs throughout the area.

Mack's work product today is proudly on display in thousands of homes and businesses. It is found in the inspired generations of youngsters that Mack touched and helped to get involved in school, sports and their community. His efforts fostered their success.

Fifty years after Mack competed in the Berlin Olympics, Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of meeting him and his wife in their home one day. It was about 15 years ago.

I was a young deputy district attorney working in the Pasadena courthouse, and Mack was helping me on a community issue. I went to visit him in his home along with four or five police officers and a couple of deputy district attorneys. He and his family were very gracious to us. They spent a lot of time with us.

When it was time to go, I asked Mack if he had any pictures of himself because I wanted him to autograph one. Well, I was teased mercilessly by the police officers and senior district attorneys with me for asking for an autograph. I was told that was a childish request.

When Mack's lovely wife, Del, said "I think we have some pictures left over from the Olympics," every one of those police officers and senior prosecutors almost knocked me over to get in line at the kitchen table to get their signed picture from Mack first!

I still have that picture, Mr. Speaker, and I will cherish that photograph Mack gave me 15 years ago as I know one day my children and grandchildren will cherish it.

Not long ago, the City of Pasadena saluted the contributions of Mack and his brother Jackie. The City erected a monument in City Hall in tribute to these two great figures that hailed from the City of Roses. That was a fitting tribute to the Robinson family.

Today, the United States House of Representatives will honor the contributions of Mack Robinson, both to Pasadena and to his country, by naming a very public building after a man whose life was spent serving the public. It is a small way for us to thank one of Pasadena's great sons.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) for yielding to me, and I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), the ranking member, for his support.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me in conclusion just say that, as is the case too often, there is an irony in the life of the gentleman who we honor. Matthew Mack Robinson, who represented this country in Hitler's Berlin at the Olympics as an African American, came home to this country and his home city, working as a City employee, was fired summarily with every other African American who worked for the City at that time. Things have changed, because time and effort and circumstances have helped bring a more enlightened leadership to our Nation. In many ways, the same doors that opened for his brother Jackie Robinson in some respects opened for Matthew Robinson.

But the City of Pasadena has seen fit to honor him with a statute along with his brother, and, in some ways, that perhaps makes some amends for the travesty of justice that he was subjected to. But, nonetheless, his life, moving from Georgia to California, starting out in a technical high school, on to a junior college, and after the Olympics, to the University of Oregon, his work as a community leader and as a public-spirited citizen, it is fitting that this Congress honor him through this legislation.

I ask that all of my colleagues support this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), the ranking member.

We have, as I tried to indicate in my remarks on this proposal and by the

gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN), an amazing story that in so many ways is a quiet story and yet in equal ways is one that screams to us about what was wrong in terms of this country's direction and what one person can do through dedication and through caring to make it better.

I think that all of us can stand here and support this very, very worthy nominee and this very, very worthy proposal.

I am honored to join with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN), and others in urging its passage.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). 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. 4157.

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.

□

#### ALAN B. SHEPARD, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4517) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 24 Tsienneto Road in Derry, New Hampshire, as the "Alan B. Shepard, Jr. Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4517

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

#### SECTION 1. ALAN B. SHEPARD, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 24 Tsienneto Road in Derry, New Hampshire, shall be known and designated as the "Alan B. Shepard, Jr. 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 "Alan B. Shepard, Jr. Post Office Building".

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).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4517.

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

There was no objection.

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