

them, we would not be able to accomplish very much of anything in this country.

With that, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. MORELLA) again for her sensitivity, but we have been very fortunate to work in a bipartisan way. As the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) said, this is the way things should be done; just a common sense approach and encouraging people to save on their own.

As we reach the waning days of this session, I want to take a moment, Madam Speaker, to thank the members of our committee, certainly the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER), the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON), and certainly the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH), our chairman, for all of the efforts that we have been able to pull together to create some very, very meaningful legislation.

I think that it is safe to say, Madam Speaker, that we set some goals at the beginning of this term, and I think we fulfilled just about all of them; and this is a crowning piece of legislation, because, again, it is recognition for our Federal employees for what they do every day, every day to lift our Nation up, to make it the strongest Nation in the world and the greatest Nation in the world. With that, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for his very appropriate and very kind words, but certainly the work that he has commented on dealing with this subcommittee working together for Federal employees, because they are so important to our Nation.

America, Madam Speaker, has one of the lowest national savings rates among industrialized countries. It has fallen steadily over the last 20 years, seriously jeopardizing America's security during what is supposed to be our golden years. Even though Americans recognize that they should be saving more, half of all family heads in their late 50s possess less than \$10,000 in net financial assets.

With the retirement of America's baby boomers approaching, Congress is beginning to consider how we can encourage Americans to save more. Federal employees, like all Americans, are increasingly concerned with planning for their retirement.

This bill, H.R. 208, is a sensible way to encourage Federal employees to take personal responsibility and increase their savings for retirement without adding impediments before

them. I think also as a Nation it helps us recruit and retain Federal employees. It says that we care about our civil servants. I am delighted that this important legislation has come to the floor for a vote. I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH), chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform for their support in expediting consideration of the resolution.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), who is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Civil Service, and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), who is the ranking member of the Committee on Government Reform, for their support.

I would also like to thank Tom Trabucco, he is from the Thrift Savings Retirement Board, for all of his help in crafting this legislation. I also want to thank our staffs on both sides of the aisle and certainly on this side such as Garry Ewing, and especially my staff person Jordie Hannum. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague from Maryland in support of H.R. 208, the modernization of the Federal Employee Thrift Savings Plan (TSP).

I share Mrs. MORELLA's view that federal employees should be allowed to participate in the TSP immediately upon being hired.

As Members of Congress, it is the least we can do to reward the hard work of our federal employees who, in recent years, have assumed increasing responsibilities, sacrificed higher private sector wages, and generally tried to make the federal government operate more efficiently with, in many cases, tighter budgets.

This bill will help to ensure that the Federal government is able to keep pace with the private sector in attracting the best and brightest personnel.

I have seen this trend first-hand in my district, where many talented individuals leave federal service because their government compensation and benefits just don't compete with offers in the private sector. I firmly believe that this bill seeks to level the playing field by enabling the federal government to hire and retain a highly skilled workforce that will secure the American public's confidence in our government and the services our federal workforce provides.

By lifting the waiting period restrictions on TSP participation, this is just one more step to make federal employment more attractive to individuals, and more competitive with the private sector.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 208.

The question was taken.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RUTH HARRIS COLEMAN POST OFFICE

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5229) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 219 South Church Street in Odum, Georgia, as the "Ruth Harris Coleman Post Office."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5229

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

SECTION 1. RUTH HARRIS COLEMAN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 219 South Church Street in Odum, Georgia, shall be known and designated as the "Ruth Harris Coleman 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 Ruth Harris Coleman Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 5229.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the bill before us, H.R. 5229, was introduced by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) and supported by the entire House delegation from the State of Georgia, pursuant to the practice of the Committee on Government Reform.

The legislation designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 219 South Church Street in Odum, Georgia as the "Ruth Harris Coleman Post Office."

Ruth Coleman was a schoolteacher and played a dynamic role in the activities of Odum as the originator and director of Odum Day for 17 of the past 24 years. She was named Odum's Citizen of the Year in 1998 and was a former chairman of the Wayne County Chapter of the AARP. She was a Member of the Wayne Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, and she chaired the American Red Cross Blood Drive in Wayne County for many years.

She also served as chairman of the Harris Family Reunion and the organizer of the Odum Sunlighters. Ruth Coleman passed away in 1998 when she was 70 years of age.

Madam Speaker, I urge our colleagues to support H.R. 5229, recognizing the contributions of Ruth Harris Coleman to Wayne County by naming a post office in Odum, Georgia in her honor.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 5229 was introduced by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) on September 20, 2000. Mrs. Ruth Harris Coleman was a schoolteacher and one of the originators of Odum Day, which celebrated its 25th year on October 7 of this year.

Mrs. Coleman was Odum Day director for 17 years. In 1983, she was the grand marshal of Odum's homecoming parade and in 1998 was named Odum's Citizen of the Year.

She chaired the American Red Cross Drive in the Wayne County Chapter of AARP and was a member of the Wayne Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. Ms. Coleman died in 1998.

I have often said that when we take a moment, Madam Speaker, to name a post office after someone, it is not the deed that counts; but it is the memory of the fact that we are taking a moment to salute this schoolteacher and give her the recognition that she richly deserves says a lot. With that, Madam Speaker, I would urge the swift passage of this bill and ask all of our colleagues to vote in favor of it.

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

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I ask that the House approve this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5229.

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.

ROBERTO CLEMENTE POST OFFICE

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4831) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2339 North California Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Roberto Clemente Post Office," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4831

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

SECTION 1. ROBERTO CLEMENTE POST OFFICE.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2339

North California Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, and known as the Logan Square Post Office, shall be known and designated as the "Roberto Clemente Post Office".

(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 Roberto Clemente Post Office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4831, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the bill before us, H.R. 4831, was introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) on July 12 and amended by the Committee on Government Reform on October 5. The amendment simply changes the word "Street" to "Avenue" as determined after review by the United States Postal Service.

H.R. 4831, as amended, designates the post office located at 2339 North California Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, presently known as the Logan Square Post Office as the Roberto Clemente Post Office. Each member of the House delegation from the State of Illinois has cosponsored this legislation pursuant to the policy of the Committee on Government Reform.

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Roberto Clemente was born in 1934 in Carolina, Puerto Rico, the son of a foreman of a sugar cane plantation and grocery store operator. He played softball as a youngster, and then he played with the professional major league caliber team until 1953 when his .356 batting average came to the attention of the Brooklyn Dodgers.

The Dodgers gave Roberto a bonus and sent him to the Montreal Royals, ordering that he should not be played lest another team draft him. He was, however, drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates after an observant Pirate scout spotted him.

Roberto Clemente played for several years as their star outfielder until 1972 when he met his untimely and tragic death when he was only 38 years old. He was thought by many as the greatest and most complete player, but he was also the victim of dual discrimination for being black and Hispanic.

Now, 28 years after the fatal plane crash while on a mission of mercy taking humanitarian supplies to the victims of an earthquake in Nicaragua, he is no longer the invisible player.

Roberto Clemente led the Pirates to World Series victories in 1960 and 1971. He was the National League batting champion in 1961, 1964, 1965, and 1967. He was ordered 12 gold gloves. He established a major league record by leading the National League in assists five times. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, the first Latin player to be so honored.

Roberto Clemente may not have been a resident of Chicago, but this citizen of the world is recognized by the Nation, and he is recognized by all lovers of the sport of baseball as a great athlete, humanitarian, and a role model.

I urge all of our colleagues to support H.R. 4831, naming a Post Office in Chicago after this hero.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4831, to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2339 North California Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Roberto Clemente Post Office" was introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ), my distinguished colleague and good friend, on July 12, 2000.

The bill was amended on October 5, 2000 in the Committee on Government Reform to change the address designation from California Street to California Avenue.

Mr. Roberto Walker Clemente was born in 1934 in Carolina, Puerto Rico and rose from an impoverished background in his hometown to become the star outfielder for the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1955 to 1972. He helped the Pirates win two World Series in 1960 and 1971.

Mr. Clemente was a four-time National League batting champion, was awarded 12 gold gloves, and was one of only 16 players to have 3,000 or more hits during their career.

Mr. Roberto Clemente, a victim of dual discrimination for being black and Hispanic, died in 1972 in a plane crash delivering relief supplies to victims of an earthquake in Nicaragua. This proud son of Puerto Rico was posthumously inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this measure, and I ask, Mr. Speaker, that we recognize the fact that Roberto Clemente was, not only a great baseball player, but he was a great role model and a great humanitarian.

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

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I have no other requests to participate, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 10 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) who is the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to do my share of duty to history. Today I rise to celebrate the life of Roberto Clemente and to recognize his