

SEC. 2. OPEN DISCLOSURE OF SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS ON THE FACE OF GOVERNMENT CHECK MAILINGS PROHIBITED.

Section 3327 of title 31 of the United States Code (relating to general authority to issue checks and other drafts) is amended—

- (1) by inserting “(a)” before “The Secretary”; and
- (2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) The Secretary of the Treasury shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure that Social Security account numbers (including derivatives of such numbers) are not visible on or through unopened mailings of checks or other drafts described in subsection (a) of this section.”.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TRANSITIONAL RULE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to all mailings of checks or other drafts issued on or after the date which is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) PHASE-IN OF AMENDMENTS.—Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall commence procedures to gradually implement the amendments made by this Act in advance of the effective date described in subsection (a). Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for each of the next two years, the Secretary shall transmit to each House of the Congress a report describing the manner and extent to which the requirements of the preceding sentence have been carried out.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

Mr. OSE. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise as the author of H.R. 3218, the Social Security Number Confidentiality Act of 1999.

First, though, I would like to thank the leadership for bringing the problem of personal privacy into the national arena, especially the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security of the Committee on Ways and Means, who presently has a more comprehensive bill before the House, for his long-time advocacy of personal information privacy.

H.R. 3218 is only a small step toward protecting all Americans from identity theft, and I look forward to working with the gentleman from Florida (Chairman SHAW) next year.

H.R. 3218 stops the Federal Government from making identity theft any easier for con artists. How? My bill prohibits the appearance of Social Security account numbers on or through unopened mailings of checks or other drafts issued by the Treasury Department.

This problem was brought to my attention by senior citizens in my district who revealed that their Social Security numbers appeared in the windowed part of their Social Security

checks, making them easy targets to scam artists. Just remember the credit card scam that victimized military officers whose names, addresses, and Social Security numbers were printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Congress has since halted this practice. Is it not time that we take steps to ensure the safety and privacy for our senior citizens?

Just last month, the Treasury Department confirmed that Social Security numbers would no longer be visible through the windows of benefits checks, such as Social Security checks.

However, the need for this legislation still exists. Any future administration could, for the sake of time or efficiency, return to the practice of using Social Security numbers for positive identification. The banking industry's concern over efficiency has been addressed in my bill by leaving Social Security numbers on the benefit checks, just not in a place where it can be seen in a windowed envelope.

H.R. 3218 ensures that seniors are never again put at risk of having their Social Security numbers displayed in plain view where they are available for criminals and fraud. It will protect the privacy and confidentiality of our Social Security numbers.

Again, I would like to thank the leadership and the gentleman from Florida (Chairman SHAW) for bringing this bill to the floor for consideration.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan legislation, H.R. 3218, the Social Security Number Confidentiality Act, which amends the law to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make necessary changes to ensure that Social Security numbers are not visible through the unopened mailings of government checks or other drafts.

I appreciate the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) for bringing this legislation forward, and I also commend the Department of the Treasury which also noted that this change needed to be made.

In fact, in August of this year, the Treasury Department announced that Social Security numbers would no longer be visible through the envelope window of checks mailed to Social Security recipients.

This past September, the Treasury Department began using the check numbers rather than the Social Security numbers to identify and to retrieve payments that are ineligible for delivery. This was a welcome and a necessary change.

I commend the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the Department of the Treasury both for noting that this important change needed to be made on the mailings of our Nation's Social Security checks.

It is interesting to note that there are a number of House Members who also have privacy bills that are pending who are anxious to have this House act

on their legislation. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KLECKZA) has H.R. 1450; the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) has H.R. 4857; the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) has H.R. 4311; the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) has H.R. 4611. All of these bills are worthy of consideration by this Congress.

Unfortunately, time seems to be running out on these important measures that are designed, as the bill of the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) is designed, to protect the privacy of American citizens.

Again, clearly, our citizens do not deserve to have their Social Security numbers displayed to the public on the envelopes in which they receive their Social Security checks.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join in adopting this resolution.

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

Mr. OSE. Madam Speaker, I also urge adoption of this bill. Having no other requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3218.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OSE. 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.

GEORGE ATLEE GOODLING POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. OSE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5210) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 South George Street in York, Pennsylvania, as the “George Atlee Goodling Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5210

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

SECTION 1. GEORGE ATLEE GOODLING POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 South George Street in York, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the “George Atlee Goodling 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 George Atlee Goodling Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. 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. 5210.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. OSE. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

Mr. GOODLING. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak on behalf of my legislation, H.R. 5210, which would designate the United States postal facility at 200 South George Street in York, Pennsylvania, as the George Atlee Goodling Post Office. I would like to note that this legislation is cosponsored by all of the Members of the Pennsylvania delegation.

Madam Speaker, my father was a man who dedicated his life to public service and to agriculture. He was quite a local athlete, playing football, basketball, baseball, both in prep school and in Pennsylvania State University until he broke his leg. I can remember as an elementary child seeing him continue to play first base on the Loganville baseball team.

My brothers and sisters were not lectured on public service. We were not lectured that we must give back. We learned by example because both Mother and Dad were volunteers in most everything there was in our community.

Dad was the fire chief in Loganville for as long as I can remember. He was the chief cook and bottle washer at all fire company suppers as long as I can remember. He served on the school board for 28 years. He served in the State House of Representatives for 14 years and then came to the U.S. House of Representatives for 12 years.

After serving in the Navy in World War I, he completed his studies at Pennsylvania State University and began coaching and teaching in the State of Delaware.

He then returned to Loganville to begin what became the Goodling Orchard and Truck farming business, which is still continued today.

He used his education to teach vocational agriculture and was, again, the executive secretary for the Pennsylvania Horticulture Association for as long as I can remember.

He used his knowledge both in the State legislature from the education he received and in the Congress to further conservation and agriculture.

As a State representative, he wrote the first Pennsylvania soil conservation legislation and introduced legislation to regulate the marketing of insecticides.

When he came to the Congress, he was assigned to the Committees on Ag-

riculture and Merchant Marine and Fisheries where he could continue his work on behalf of the farmer and conservation. He was known here as the "Farmer Congressman" by his colleagues and worked hard to ensure that the interests of Eastern farmers was carried equally as important as those of the Midwest.

During his tenure in the Congress, he worked to provide funds to the States for hunter education programs and to provide additional funds for wildlife restoration.

Upon his retirement from the Congress of the United States, he returned to Loganville and continued his work on the family farm and family orchards. I am pleased to introduce this legislation and have it come to the floor, and I ask that it would be passed.

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

Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I rise in support of H.R. 5210, which names a postal facility after George Atlee Goodling, the father of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), who has served with such distinction, himself, in this House.

I suppose there is no greater occasion than when we have the opportunity to pay tribute to our fathers. I know it is with a great deal of pride and satisfaction that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) can stand today before this House and pay tribute to his father in this way.

Clearly, both Goodlings served with distinction in this House and served the people of Pennsylvania very, very well. So I take a great deal of pride and satisfaction personally in being able to be a part of joining in support of H.R. 5210, to name this postal facility after George Atlee Goodling.

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

Mr. OSE. 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 California (Mr. OSE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5210.

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.

1545

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 4635, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4635) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs

and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees: Messrs. WALSH, DELAY, HOBSON, KNOLLENBERG, FREILINGHUYSEN, Mrs. NORTHUP, Messrs. SUNUNU, GOODE, YOUNG of Florida, MOLLOHAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CRAMER and Mr. OBEY.

There was no objection.

J.T. WEEKER SERVICE CENTER

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5016) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 514 Express Center Drive in Chicago, Illinois, as the "J.T. Weeker Service Center," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5016

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

SECTION 1. J.T. WEEKER SERVICE CENTER.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 514 Express Center Road in Chicago, Illinois, and known as the Chicago International/Military Service Center, shall be known and designated as the "J.T. Weeker Service Center".

(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 J.T. Weeker Service Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. 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. 5016, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

H.R. 5016, Madam Speaker, names a postal facility after J.T. Weeker. The legislation was introduced by my friend and committee colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BLAGOJEVICH), on July 27 of this year.