

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

BUSH TAX CUTS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday millions of Americans lined up at post offices all over the country to get their taxes in on time. And once again, as this poster illustrates, the average American family spent more on taxes last year than food, clothing, shelter, and transportation combined.

Once again, the average wage earner spends the first 3 hours of an 8-hour working day laboring just to pay his taxes. Once again, the equivalent of every paycheck from January to the middle of May goes just to pay taxes.

Mr. Speaker, last year we joined the President in passing much-needed tax relief for the American people. But because of opposition from the big spenders in the other body, there is a sunset clause in the law. In other words, unless we vote to make the tax cuts permanent, everyone will get a big tax hike, the marriage penalty tax will come back, the death tax will come back, the child tax credit will be cut in half, IRAs will be cut by \$3,000, and the economy will suffer.

This week we will vote on a bill to prevent this from happening. I urge my colleagues to support the effort to make the tax relief permanent for the American people.

EQUAL PAY DAY: CLOSING THE WAGE GAP

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Congress to pass legislation that will guarantee equal pay for equal work for women. Equal pay for equal work should not even be a question in the year 2002. Yet women earn only 73 percent of wages earned by men for doing the same work with the same qualifications. For African American women, it is only 64 cents on a dollar; and for Hispanic women, 52 cents for every dollar earned by men. The time for pay equity is now. Let us do the right thing: pass equal pay for women.

TRAFICANT EXPULSION RESOLUTION INTRODUCED

(Mr. SENSENBRENNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced a resolution expelling the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) from the House of Representatives. Last week, a Federal court jury in Cleveland found the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) guilty on all 10 felony counts of a criminal indictment. Regretfully, this resolution is necessary because Mr. TRAFICANT foolishly rejected the call of the minority leader to resign. Felons belong in jail and not in Congress. He has broken the public trust by breaking the law; and if he will not voluntarily leave this House, our duty is to remove him.

Throughout my tenure in the House, I have consistently taken the position that Members who have been convicted of felonies should be expelled if they do not resign. In 1980, the House expelled Michael Meyers of Pennsylvania after he refused to resign following conviction of Abscam-related felonies. In 1995, Walter Tucker of California was convicted, initially refused to resign, and changed his mind after I introduced an expulsion resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that Mr. TRAFICANT will follow the example of Mr. Tucker and save the House the need to debate once again whether felons should continue to serve in Congress.

BROOKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Good Book teaches us that the perseverance of a faithful few can touch the lives of many for the better. During the late 1800s in New Brookland, South Carolina, a small group of men and women met together for prayer and worship. By 1902, the group had grown and the Brookland Baptist Church was founded.

For decades, the church has been a refuge of hope, and the church began a new chapter in 1971 when Rev. Charles B. Jackson, Sr., became their ninth pastor at the age of 18. Attracting large crowds of over 4,000 members, the church bought and renovated a nearby shopping center. I am honored that Earl Brown, a deacon, is my special assistant.

Today, the church serves the community through HIV-AIDS program, homeless outreach, the Black Male Conference, scouting programs, recreational and tutorial programs, and has even organized a full-service credit union. The church is one of South Carolina's largest African American congregations.

This year, as Brookland Baptist Church celebrates its 100th anniversary, it is very easy to see how this once-small group of believers has grown to make the lives of those around them immeasurably improved for the better.

DOE HAS IGNORED GEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I joined with hundreds of Americans opposed to the idea of shipping high-level nuclear waste across the entire country to a geologically unstable site in a Nevada desert.

Scientific evidence continues to mount showing that Yucca Mountain is not a safe or sound location for nuclear waste, and evidence also shows that the Department of Energy has ignored its geologic problems.

Even former DOE officials have agreed that the DOE has not held Yucca Mountain to high scientific standards. Dr. Victor Gilinsky, former commissioner of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, asserted in a sworn affidavit that the DOE's site suitability standard is so lax that it could be met in the basement of the DOE headquarters here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve better. The site suitability of a nuclear repository should be based on science, not politics. Yucca Mountain is not a suitable site for the storage of the deadliest substance known to man. I urge Members to oppose the DOE Yucca Mountain lie.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6:30 p.m. today.

JOSEPH W. WESTMORELAND POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3960) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3719 Highway 4 in Jay, Florida, as the "Joseph W. Westmoreland Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3960

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

SECTION 1. JOSEPH W. WESTMORELAND POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3719 Highway 4 in Jay, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Joseph W. Westmoreland 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 Joseph W. Westmoreland Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. 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. 3960, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3960, introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JEFF MILLER) designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3719 Highway 4 in Jay, Florida, as the Joseph W. Westmoreland Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, Joseph Westmoreland was appointed as postmaster at the Jay, Florida, post office in 1948, where he served for 41 years until his retirement in September 1989. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Westmoreland also served in our Nation's military during World War II as a member of the Army Air Corps. Throughout his life, Mr. Westmoreland distinguished himself as a community leader, constantly working for what was best for northwest Florida. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H.R. 3960.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 3960, a measure which names a postal facility after Joseph W. Westmoreland, introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JEFF MILLER) on March 13, 2002, and enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the Florida congressional delegation. This measure was originally introduced by our former colleague, Mr. Scarborough.

Mr. Speaker, Joseph Westmoreland was a member of the postal community, serving as postmaster of the Jay, Florida, post office for 41 years until his retirement in 1989. A World War II veteran, community leader, and very devout member of the Jay United Methodist Church, Mr. Westmoreland was a civil servant who believed in going the extra mile to help the public. As a matter of fact, there are some who would say he was a servant of the com-

munity and enjoyed it. I urge swift passage of this resolution.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JEFF MILLER), the distinguished sponsor of the bill.

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to rise today as the House considers H.R. 3960, a bill to designate the United States Postal Service Facility located in Jay, Florida, as the Joseph W. Westmoreland Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I introduced this measure to provide a fitting tribute to the service and life of the man who did so much for that area of the State in northwest Florida.

Mr. Joseph Westmoreland was born to humble beginnings in South Carolina before serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Upon leaving service in 1946, Joe married Evelyn, whom he had met while stationed at Hurlburt Field. The couple moved to Jay, where Evelyn's father owned a small grocery store, and where they would share 55 years of marriage.

Joe was appointed postmaster by Congress in 1948, a position he would serve in for 41 years until his retirement. Time and time again, Joe proved himself not only an exemplary postmaster, but a strong community leader until his death January 28 of last year. While living in Jay, he became a charter member of the Jay Lions Club and served in many positions in the Jay United Methodist Church, from teaching adult Sunday school classes to chair of the finance committee.

Joe was an example to all of us that a civil servant is forever indebted to the people he serves. His faith taught him that there is no greater act than service to fellow man, and his life was a testament to these beliefs. Although Joe is not with us today, his legacy of service and dedication to community serves as a shining example to those in northwest Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Joe's wife, Evelyn, and his sons, Lofton and Dale, for sharing their husband and father with the communities for so many years.

I would like to thank the Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) for their assistance in getting this bill to the floor, and urge my colleagues to support this measure to recognize a man who dedicated over 4 decades of his life to the people of Jay, Florida.

□ 1415

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such times he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SANDLIN).

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 3960, to designate a post office in Jay, Florida, as the Joseph W. Westmoreland Post Office Building.

Joseph Willis Westmoreland was an admirable American and a public servant. He was among the greatest generation and served in the Army during World War II. World War II veterans alone represent nearly 40 percent of all American war participants. These great individuals risked their lives for the future of this country and we must keep our promise to them. Mr. Speaker, the World War II veteran population is aging and we must keep our promise to these individuals and give them the Social Security benefits we guaranteed to them when they went off to war.

Joseph Westmoreland served as the postmaster of the Jay Post Office in Jay, Florida for 41 years. He dedicated his working years to public service and made our government a better place. After a lifetime of public service, Mr. Westmoreland retired to enjoy his golden years. Like over 32 million Americans, Mr. Westmoreland relied on Social Security as a safety net. In Florida alone, where this post office will be dedicated, there are over 3 million Social Security recipients. The Republican budget taps into the Social Security trust fund and jeopardizes the future of these millions of seniors in Florida and throughout the country.

The Joseph W. Westmoreland Post Office Building in Florida will be another shining example of what good government is all about. The Postal Service has a slogan, "We deliver." Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this Congress continues not to deliver for America's retirement. This Congress, after spending down the surplus, continues to pass legislation to raid the Social Security trust fund. Our seniors deserve better.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I can imagine that over a period of 41 years as postmaster that Mr. Westmoreland must have passed out hundreds and thousands of Social Security checks and people probably would come to the post office with a smile on their face and with glee in their heart, knowing that they were going to pick up that valued Social Security check. I would just hope that we never do anything that would jeopardize or take away the opportunity for people to continue to have that feeling.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this resolution.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I urge the adoption of this measure honoring an exemplary civil servant.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3960.

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.

PHILIP E. RUPPE POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1374) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Calumet Street in Lake Linden, Michigan, as the "Philip E. Ruppe Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1374

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

SECTION 1. PHILIP E. RUPPE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Calumet Street in Lake Linden, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the "Philip E. Ruppe 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 Philip E. Ruppe Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1374, introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Calumet Street in Lake Linden, Michigan, as the Philip E. Ruppe Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, Philip Ruppe was first elected to the United States House of Representatives from Michigan's Upper Peninsula in 1966 and served with distinction until 1979. Prior to his congressional service, Mr. Ruppe served in the United States Navy during the Korean War.

Mr. Ruppe, with his long family history in Michigan, has contributed to his community as an active civic leader and respected businessman. He brought this leadership and concern from northern Michigan to the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee where he served as the ranking member.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H.R. 1374.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join with my colleague, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) in consideration of H.R. 1374, legislation naming a postal facility after former Congressman Philip E. Ruppe. H.R. 1374 was introduced by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) on April 3, 2001. This bill enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire Michigan delegation.

Mr. Ruppe represented northern Michigan from 1967 until 1979. During his tenure in Congress, Mr. Ruppe served on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries and Interior and Insular Affairs Committees, always dedicated to improving the quality of life for his constituents back home.

An active member of his community and noted businessman, he will long be remembered for his service to this House as well as service to the people of northern Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. STUPAK. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer H.R. 1374, to designate the United States Post Office in Lake Linden, Michigan, as the Philip E. Ruppe Post Office Building.

Mr. Ruppe, as has been noted, became a Member of the United States House of Representatives on January 3, 1967, and served until January 3, 1979. Phil Ruppe was born in Laurium, Michigan, on September 29, 1926, where his family has lived since the 1870s.

Mr. Ruppe married the former Loret Miller and she went on to serve as director of the Peace Corps and Ambassador to Norway. Phil and Loret taught their daughters the intrinsic value of public service. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, Loret Ruppe passed away in 1996.

Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Phil Ruppe was a community leader and businessman in the Keewanaw Peninsula located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Besides serving this country as a legislator, Phil Ruppe served his country as a lieutenant in the United States Navy during the Korean conflict.

While in Congress, Mr. Ruppe was devoted to the concerns of the people of northern Michigan and was a member, as has been noted, of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. One of his legislative achievements included establishing the Father Marquette National Memorial near St. Ignace, Michigan. Mr. Ruppe was devoted to constituent and economic de-

velopment in northern Michigan. He was actually the first Congressman representing this northern Michigan district to have district offices, demonstrating his focus on local concerns. Mr. Ruppe was well respected by all Members of Congress.

Before Mr. Ruppe retired, former Member Sonny Montgomery best summarized Phil Ruppe when he said, and I quote, "I have always been impressed with Phil's intense interest and dedication to his legislative committees. He has never failed to be an effective member and contribute to the deliberation of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee and the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee."

Mr. Speaker, a fitting tribute to Phil Ruppe's service to northern Michigan would be naming the Lake Linden Post Office after Phil Ruppe. I would like to thank the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) for moving this legislation. I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and also the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) for moving forth the legislation on the floor.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS).

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1374, to designate a post office in Lake Linden, Michigan, as the Philip E. Ruppe Post Office Building. I am always satisfied when we honor a former colleague.

However, we should also be working to protect the Social Security trust fund from being raided. As we debate H.R. 1374, a good bill that will benefit hundreds or maybe thousands of Americans, we should also think about the millions of Americans who currently survive only on a Social Security income, like my 91-year-old grandmother back home in Prescott, Arkansas, who lives from Social Security check to Social Security check. Do they not deserve to live their latter years with dignity?

If we continue to pass fiscally irresponsible legislation that raids the Social Security trust fund, when will it be before their benefits are cut? Sometime between 2011 and 2016, we are going to have more people earning Social Security benefits than paying into the Social Security system. Everyone agrees that by 2041, Social Security as we know it today is broke.

My grandparents left an America a little bit better than they found for my parents. And my parents left us a little bit better country than they found for us. I think we owe it to our children and our grandchildren to ensure that we live the kind of life and make the kind of decisions, the kind of responsible decisions, sometimes difficult as they may be, but we must do those