

Community-based Holocaust museums are appearing all around the country. This is a reflection of the increasing awareness of the lessons taught by the Holocaust. I am proud to be a founding trustee of the Virginia Holocaust Museum and applaud the efforts of those who join us nationwide to ensure a rightful place for Holocaust education and remembrance.

Only when every person understands the magnitude of the death, destruction, and utter horrors of the Holocaust, can we feel that we have begun to do everything to prevent its recurrence. Therefore, Madam Speaker, as we remember the horrors of this dark chapter in human history and remain dedicated to increasing awareness of the lessons taught by the Holocaust, I am pleased to be here in support of this resolution, permitting the use of the capitol rotunda on this most solemn occasion.

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

The reason, of course, it is important to remember is so that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past. We human beings are inclined to do that. Some 60 years have passed since the Holocaust almost, and it perhaps fades in our immediate memory. But ceremonies like this are critically important to remind us that we need to be vigilant.

The gentleman from Virginia correctly observed that the rotunda is an appropriate place to have this ceremony. There probably is no place in the world seen as a symbol of the defense of freedom more than the rotunda. So I am pleased, along with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), the chairman of our committee, whose leadership on these types of issues has been always present and always effective, I am pleased to join them in support of this resolution.

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 325 and commend the gentleman (Mr. NEY) for bringing this important measure to the floor at this time.

When we talk of the Holocaust we speak of something unprecedented in human history; an abominable atrocity, distinct from any other. The mass murder that was inflicted upon the Jews and a variety of ethnic communities, political groups and unarmed military personnel, must be viewed both as crimes against humanity and acts of genocide and should be remembered as such.

Let us also remember the compassion of the many brave men and women who risked their lives to rescue and shelter Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi reign of terror. The incidents of countless non-Jews who risked their lives to protect people of another faith were as real as the Nazi death camps themselves.

Yet, until recently, it was easy in the United States to forget the devastation of the Second World War, as this country was spared from the horrors of both the bombing and Hitler's "answer" to the age-old "Jewish Question." Today we are faced with those who wish to use terror as a "final solution," and we must remember the steadfastness and compassion

of those who vowed not to give in to the terror that the Nazis inflicted on the civilized world.

Accordingly, I am pleased to support H. Con. Res. 325, authorizing the rotunda of the Capitol to be used on April 9, 2002, for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. I urge my colleagues to overwhelmingly support this resolution, so that we may never forget the innocent victims of the Holocaust.

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

Mr. NEY. 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 gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 325.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of H. Con. Res. 325, the concurrent resolution just agreed to.

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

There was no objection.

#### TOM BILEY POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1748) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 805 Glen Burnie Road in Richmond, Virginia, as the "Tom Bliley Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1748

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

#### SECTION 1. TOM BILEY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 805 Glen Burnie Road in Richmond, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "Tom Bliley 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 Tom Bliley Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PUTNAM. 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. 1748.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1748, introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), a member of the freshman class, designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 850 Glen Burnie Road in Richmond, Virginia, as the Tom Bliley Post Office Building. Members of the entire House delegation from the Commonwealth of Virginia are cosponsors of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, Tom Bliley began his political career in 1968 when he was elected to the Richmond City Council and served as vice-mayor. In 1970 he was elected mayor and served in that capacity until 1977. He returned to the family funeral home business until he announced his candidacy for Congress in 1980. He began his service in this Congress on the Committee on Commerce and would eventually become chairman after the historic 1994 elections. He worked with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle to enact major reforms of key industries, including telecommunications, banking, securities, the Internet, and satellite industries. I think that he would regard the Telecommunications Act of 1996 as his greatest accomplishment.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of H.R. 1748.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague from Florida in consideration of this resolution, H.R. 1748, legislation naming a post office after former Representative Thomas Bliley. H.R. 1748, introduced by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) on May 8, 2001, has met the committee requirements and is supported and cosponsored by the entire Virginia delegation.

Former Representative Bliley, who represented the 7th Congressional District in Virginia, served with great distinction and honor in the Congress from 1980 to 2000. Former Representative Bliley began his political career in Richmond in 1968, first serving on the Richmond City Council, then vice-mayor, and later as mayor. A Democrat in State politics, Thomas Bliley switched to the GOP when he ran for Congress. Prior to leaving Congress, Representative Bliley served as the chairman of the House Committee on Commerce, whose agenda tackled such issues as telecommunications, energy, and environmental matters.

Madam Speaker, he was truly an outstanding member of this body.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to speak today in favor of legislation I have introduced to rename a post office building in Richmond, Virginia, after my predecessor, Representative Tom Bliley. Tom Bliley served in this body for 20 years before he retired at the end of the 106th Congress. He served with distinction as a valued member of the Republican Conference and as chairman of the prestigious House Committee on Commerce for 6 years. He was also a man who knew how to keep priorities in life. To those who know Tom Bliley, they know his faith, family, Georgetown basketball, and tennis are important to him.

After graduating from Georgetown University, he entered the Navy as an officer and would join the family funeral home business after his naval service. Tom ran for Richmond City Council in 1968 and won. Two years later, in 1970, he won a 2-year term as mayor of Richmond, a 2-year term that lasted for 7 years.

After 1977, he left the mayor's office and returned to private life. In 1980, Tom Bliley was elected to Congress on the same day as Ronald Reagan. He secured his seat on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and immediately began working to return power to the people through competition and elimination of bureaucratic waste and regulation. His biggest local accomplishment was securing Federal funding of the Richmond floodwall. He worked with Members of both sides of the aisle to achieve this important funding for the City of Richmond. The floodwall helped revitalize the downtown economy and is a lasting legacy to Tom Bliley's ability to work with various Members with different political philosophies to accomplish a goal for the good of the people.

Tom Bliley worked hard to advance many initiatives and was elevated to the chairmanship of the prestigious House Committee on Commerce in 1994. It was during this time he achieved his greatest accomplishments. He was able to find common ground with his colleagues to enact telecommunications reform, safe drinking water and food safety legislation, FDA reform, securities tort reform, and the Graham-Leach-Bliley financial services modernization act.

However, his biggest accomplishment in Congress was the Telecommunications Act of 1996, because it is the interstate highway act of the digital age. As the author of this act, he spearheaded the historic legislation bringing greater choice, lower price, and new innovative technologies to consumers. It will go down in history as one of the most important bills of the 20th century.

As an adoptive father, Tom co-founded the Congressional Coalition on Adoption and sponsored over 1 dozen

different adoption bills. Most notably, he secured passage into law of the Adoption Awareness Act and was the author of the Hope for Children Act.

□ 1430

He was the author of the Hope for Children Act to increase the adoption tax credits to \$10,000. Tom truly stood up for children without voices, and his leadership on adoption issues is missed by a grateful Nation.

Madam Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not recognize another individual who Tom would say is most important, and that is his dear wife Mary Virginia, who now enjoys Tom even more as he is home that much more often, and without her sacrifice over these many, many years and decades, Tom could not have been the leader he was for the Richmond area as well as the Nation.

Madam Speaker, at this time I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

It is an honor to speak today in favor of legislation I have introduced to rename a post office building after my predecessor, Representative Tom Bliley. Tom Bliley served in this body for twenty years before he retired at the end of the 106th Congress. He served with distinction as a valued member of the Republican caucus and as Chairman of the prestigious House Commerce Committee for six years. He was also a man who knew to keep priorities in life. To those who know Tom Bliley, you know his faith, family, Georgetown basketball, and tennis are important to him.

After graduating from Georgetown University, he entered the navy as an officer and learned history doesn't offer many crystal lessons for those who serve our nation's affairs but there were a few. The strongest lesson he learned and the one most valuable in our roles as House Members is that weakness on the part of those who cherish freedom inevitably brings a threat to that freedom.

After his service in the Navy, he joined the family funeral home business where he eventually assumed the role of President. During that time, he gained important business experience that shaped his attitude towards problems facing small business owners. One day, some community leaders in Richmond came to him and asked him to run for city council. Tom replied he didn't see how he could devote the time to it so they called on his father, who headed the business. They said to him, "This community has been good to you. You can give something back by letting Tom run for city council."

His father agreed. Tom ran. It changed the course of his life, for he was in public service for nearly 3 decades upon retiring in January of this year. Two years later, in 1970, he won a two-year term as Mayor of Richmond—a two year term that lasted for seven years. The seventies were some of the most racially divisive years in our nation's history and Richmond was no exception. During his tenure as mayor, Richmonders were able to pull together and survive these troubled times.

Richmond survived because people worked together to find a common good. His tenure as mayor taught him a lot—lessons that were invaluable to him in the years that followed: understanding that the other fellow has a point of view, understanding that compromise without

forsaking your principles is a good thing, and understanding that one can always seek a common ground if you keep your eye on the greater good.

After 1977, he left the mayor's office and returned to private life. In surprising news to many people in 1980, the incumbent Congressman from Richmond announced his retirement and Tom Bliley won the primary and was elected to Congress on the same day as Ronald Reagan. He secured a seat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and immediately began working to return power to the people through competition and elimination of bureaucratic waste and regulation.

At the same time, he never forgot where he came from and would dutifully mind the business of his constituents. His biggest local accomplishment was securing federal funding of the Richmond flood wall. He worked with Members of both sides of the aisle to achieve this important funding for the city of Richmond. The flood wall helped revitalize the downtown economy and is a lasting legacy to Tom Bliley's ability to work with various members with different political philosophies to accomplish a goal for the good of the people.

Tom Bliley worked hard to advance many initiatives and he would go on to say that Republicans caught lightning in the bottle when they swept control of the U.S. House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years in 1994. This historic election elevated Tom Bliley to the Chairmanship of the prestigious House Commerce Committee. It was during this time he achieved his greatest accomplishments. He was able to find common ground with his colleagues to enact telecommunications reform, safe drinking water and food safety legislation, FDA reform, securities tort reform, reform of the securities laws, Internet tax moratorium legislation, International Satellite privatization, Electronic Signatures legislation, Satellite Home Viewer Act, and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Services Modernization Act.

However, his biggest accomplishment in Congress was the Telecommunications Act of 1996 because it is the Interstate Highway Act of the Digital Age. As the author of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, he spearheaded historic legislation knocking down regulatory barriers to competition in the telecommunications industry—bringing greater choice, lower prices and new innovative technologies to consumers. It will go down in history as one of the most important bills of the 20th century. It is the vehicle that fueled the technology revolution that is changing the way we live and work in the new century. It is not just about copper wires and telephone companies. It is about e-mail, wireless phones, satellite television, and lower local phone bills.

As a result of the Telecommunications Act, consumers now have a choice in their local phone company. Thanks to increased telephone competition, there are new local phone operators in all 50 states. Consumers have access to new, innovative technologies. Companies are now offering a bundled package of voice, video, and high-speed Internet access. Consumers can now purchase a variety of wireless phones at affordable prices.

The Virginia gentlemen served with distinction but I would be remiss not to talk about his wonderful wife, Mary Virginia, his two children, and four grandchildren. He reserved Sunday for family time and always turned down interviews on Sunday because that is when he

took his wife to Mass. His commitment to setting aside time on the weekends for his family gave him peace and solitude away from the nation's business in Washington, D.C.

As an adoptive father, Tom co-founded the Congressional Coalition on Adoption and sponsored over one dozen different adoption bills. Most notably, he secured passage into law the Adoption Awareness Act and was the author of the Hope for Children Act to increase the adoption tax credit to \$10,000. I am very pleased to say that my friend, JIM DEMINT, reintroduced the Hope for Children Act this year and it was signed into law by President Bush. Tom truly stood up for children without voices and his leadership on adoption issues is missed by a grateful nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding me time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of our former congressional colleague and former Virginian, Tom Bliley, for his many years of public service to Virginia and to the Nation. I am, therefore, proud to join my other Virginia colleagues in cosponsoring this bill to name a post office in Richmond, Virginia, in his honor.

Tom Bliley dedicated over 32 years of public service, and 20 of those years have been as a Member of Congress representing the Seventh Congressional District of Virginia culminating in his chairmanship of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Before coming to Congress he served on city council and as mayor of Richmond, Virginia. In addition, Tom is the former president of Joseph Bliley Funeral Homes, where he gained an appreciation of the problems facing the small businessman. During his lengthy career he gained respect of Members from both sides of the aisle and from his constituents in the Seventh District. Tom and I both represented parts of Richmond, Virginia, for 8 years, and I was fortunate to be able to work with him on many issues important to the capital of the Commonwealth and, indeed, the Nation.

He was instrumental in ensuring the resources of the James River were efficiently utilized for commerce and recreation. The floodwall mentioned by my colleague from Virginia was part of that effort. He and I worked together to see that the James River and Kanawha Canal riverfront project became a reality. This project restored a portion of the historic canal through the city of Richmond, which is a main hub for revitalization of the historic riverfront. He even sponsored legislation to ensure that the Army Corps of Engineers maintained the James River as a navigable waterway so the commercial and trade enterprises would not be compromised.

I am particularly grateful for his work on the Richmond National Bat-

tlefield Park legislation which included recognition of the Battle of New Market Heights as a premier landmark in African American military history.

With his many accomplishments Tom worked across party lines and with his Virginia delegation colleagues to best represent the issues in interest to the Seventh Congressional District. It is a fitting tribute to his career of public service to honor him with the naming of this post office in Richmond, Virginia.

Madam Speaker, I therefore urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished and learned gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) for his generous introduction. I appreciate that.

Madam Speaker, we serve here in the people's House with dozens of people who represent a wide array of constituents. Some Congressmen stand out as particularly prominent. Tom Bliley is one of these. My staff always referred to him as the Virginia gentleman. He is indeed the Virginia gentleman, bow tie and all.

When grading or rating elected officials, Madam Speaker, certain qualifications surface; integrity, accessibility, willingness to work, among others. Tom Bliley passes these tests with flying colors.

I have spent a good amount of time in their Richmond, Virginia, home, and I came to know Mary Virginia, his wife, well. She has offered him continuous and consistent support during his time in public life.

I have observed Tom Bliley responding to his constituents, expressing care, concern, sensitivity as he went about helping them resolve their various problems. He served that beautiful historic city on the banks of the James River as its mayor, as has been previously stated, prior to his having been elected to serve in the people's House where he served for two decades.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased, indeed, to heartily endorse the proposal to have the post office which serves the West Hampton area in Richmond as the Tom Bliley Post Office, the inimitable Virginia gentleman.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would urge swift passage of this measure.

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

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the Commonwealth of Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and former colleague from Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, Tom Bliley, and also to support H.R. 1748, to designate the U.S. Post Office on Glen Burnie Road in Richmond, Virginia, in the chairman's

honor. This represents an important way of saluting his service to the Commonwealth and to the country.

Mr. Bliley served as chairman to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce for three terms ending in 2000. He was hand-picked by then-Speaker Gingrich over more senior Members, and his agenda during those 6 years was quite simply to promote commerce.

As chairman, Mr. Bliley was a pragmatist, willing to broker deals behind doors with ideological friends and foes alike. As a result, the committee became one of the most constructive in Congress, promoting free and fair markets, standing for consumer choice and common-sense safeguards for our health and our environment, and keeping a watchful eye on the Federal bureaucracy.

The pleasant, soft-spoken mortician, once dubbed in a magazine's cover story as the most influential funeral director on Earth, started his political career in 1968 when civil leaders sought him to run for the Richmond City Council. He served the city for almost a decade, not only on the council, but also as vice mayor, and then becoming mayor until 1977 when he retired to devote more time to his funeral home business. However, the chairman was not out of politics for long. He enthusiastically reentered when Democrat David Satterfield announced his retirement from Congress in 1980.

Since his first election to Congress, the chairman was recognized by many organizations for his work. He served in various roles with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. From November of 1994 to October of 1998, he was chairman of its economic committee, and in November 1998, he became one of four Vice Presidents, and with the resignation of its President in 2000 of May, the chairman became acting President.

His commitment to balancing the Federal budget earned him the National Watchdog of the Treasury's "Golden Bulldog Award" every year since 1981. He was named a Guardian of Small Business by the NFIB. He has been called the most powerful Virginian since Harry Byrd, and the National Journal cited him as Mr. Smooth.

Madam Speaker, I join with my fellow Virginia colleagues in honoring Tom Bliley, thanking the chairman for his service to our Commonwealth and to our Nation. He has been a friend and mentor to me and many others. His presence in this Chamber has been missed, and I urge passage of this bill.

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

Madam Speaker, it is clear that the gentleman from Mississippi, Mr. Bliley, whom we honor today, has earned the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle and is highly deserving of this honor. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this measure.

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, as an original cosponsor of this legislation, I wanted to

offer my strong support for this bill and to express my admiration for Congressman Tom Bliley and his distinguished career.

Even before his election to Congress in 1980, Congressman Bliley had already accomplished what many would consider a lifetime of service to his country. He was born just south of the James River in Westover Hills. After graduating from Georgetown University, Tom Bliley joined the Navy as an officer where he rose to the rank of lieutenant. Between 1970 and 1977 Congressman Bliley served as Mayor of Richmond. It was his steady hand and wisdom that were credited for guiding the city through some of its most turbulent times.

Many of us here in Congress came to know Congressman Bliley during his twenty years of service in the House of Representatives. Congressman Bliley retired at the end of the 106th Congress as the distinguished Chairman of the House Commerce Committee. While I did not have the honor of serving with Tom Bliley in Congress, I did have the opportunity to work closely with Congressman Bliley on many occasions during my time in the Virginia General Assembly and have always admired his demeanor and dedication to making Virginia and America a better place.

We often see in politics today elected officials that come to Washington to serve themselves rather than their constituents. We often see politicians that cannot resist the temptation to engage in destructive politics. After all, we are all human. However, during his time in Congress Tom Bliley never forgot the people who sent him to Washington and why they sent him in the first place. During every minute of his time in Congress Tom Bliley always had the respect and admiration of his colleagues. Few can make such a claim.

Madam Speaker, I hope the soon to be Tom Bliley Post Office Building will serve as bold tribute to a distinguished Virginian and a noble statesman.

Mr. SCHROCK. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today in support of H.R. 1748, which will honor our good friend, Congressman Tom Bliley. For over thirty years, Tom served the people of Richmond and the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As a Vice Mayor and Mayor of Richmond and as the Congressman representing Virginia's Third and Seventh Districts, Tom worked to bring opposing sides together on issues of contention. As Chairman of the House Committee on Commerce, Chairman Bliley brought together lawmakers with very differing views to find consensus on some of the most important laws regulating telecommunications, capital markets, energy, and healthcare. At the same time, Tom stuck to his guns and remained a staunch conservative.

Tom took the helm of the Commerce Committee when we were beginning to see the first stages of the Information Age in the late 1990s. In the six years that he was chairman, the Internet grew exponentially and the telecommunications industry made many important developments. Chairman Bliley avoided knee-jerk reactions to regulate these growing industries, allowing them to grow and flourish.

In addition to serving as a powerful committee chairman, Tom was an ardent advocate for his constituents, making no apologies for working to gain federal support for important projects in his district. From the floodwall along the James River in Richmond to renovation of Main Street Station, Tom looked after his district very closely.

Perhaps Tom's most valuable achievements in Congress were in the area of adoption advocacy and legislation. The adoption tax credit legislation that he shepherded became known as the Tom Bliley Adoption Tax Credit and I am pleased that Congress was able to include expansion of the tax credit in the tax relief legislation passed last year.

Though he has retired from Congress, Tom has not ended his service to the Commonwealth of Virginia. He now sits on the Board of Visitors for the University of Virginia and Affiliated Schools, working to improve higher education quality and expand educational opportunities in Virginia.

I am pleased to be a co-sponsor of H.R. 1748, which will recognize Chairman Bliley for his service to Virginia and his country. His record of distinguished service demonstrates to us all his commitment to the values and principles of freedom and public service. The Tom Bliley Post Office Building will be a testament to his service and dedication, and I urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1748, a bill to designate the United States Postal Service building located at 805 Glen Burnie Road in Richmond, Virginia, as the "Tom Bliley Post Office Building."

Before his departure from the House of Representatives at the conclusion of the 106th Congress, Tom Bliley and I had served together for two decades on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. As Chairman of the Committee on Commerce during the 104th, 105th, and 106th Congresses, Tom worked to address difficult topics across the vast range of the Committee's jurisdiction.

Tom reached out in a bipartisan manner to move important legislation through the Committee, including the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act of 1997, and Digital Signatures legislation. I note that this bipartisanship on the Committee came during a time of intense partisanship in the House.

When we were adversaries, Tom remained a gentleman and a friend. I value his friendship and thank him for his.

I congratulate Tom on his two decades of worthy service to his constituents, the Committee, and the House of Representatives, and can think of no more fitting way to honor him and his fine public service than by dedicating this U.S. Post Office building in his honor.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today and join fellow members of the Virginia delegation and other colleagues in support of H.R. 1748, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 805 Glen Burnie Road in Richmond, Virginia, as the "Tom Bliley Post Office Building," and to pay tribute to our former Virginia colleague who retired from this House at the end of the 106th Congress.

Tom Bliley is a true Virginia gentleman who epitomizes the highest ideals of public service. He came to Congress with me in 1981. It was

an honor to serve side by side with him for 20 years. Tom was a perfect match for Virginia's 7th District which includes the city of Richmond, as this is a district replete with a tradition of true statesmen.

Tom left the Congress, having served as chairman of the Commerce Committee, a responsibility he took seriously and performed with incredible legislative skill and expertise. He showed an amazing ability to deal with such complex issues as the electric utility grid and Medicaid formulas to home medical services and drug discounts for veterans.

Tom had a diverse political career before even making his way to Capitol Hill. He was first elected to the Richmond Council as a conservative Democrat in 1968, then as mayor of Richmond from 1970-77, and eventually to the House of Representatives—this time as a Republican. His unique background enabled him to work to achieve bipartisan results while never losing sight of the issues which were important to his district and his constituents.

It is a fitting tribute that a postal facility in his hometown of Richmond will bear his name and will honor his years of service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and to the nation.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this effort to honor my friend Tom Bliley.

Tom Bliley was first elected to this body in 1980, after a successful career as a businessman and serving on the City Council and later as Mayor of Richmond. Throughout his service in Congress, Tom Bliley was a strong advocate of fiscal responsibility, the free market and consumer choice. As Chairman of the House Commerce Committee for three terms, he steered some of the most significant legislation through Congress in recent years.

Chairman Bliley also served as the dean of the Virginia delegation and, true to this role, he was a leader to all of our Members. We all enjoyed his friendship, and great sense of humor. Tom fought hard to represent the interests of his congressional district, constantly attending to the needs in his local community. Virginia has benefitted enormously from Congressman Bliley's lifetime of public service. A master in the art of bipartisan compromise, bold leadership, and legislative vision, Tom Bliley is an example to all of us. Honoring his tenure in the House of Representatives by designating the Tom Bliley Post Office is a fitting farewell.

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 gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1748.

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.

#### BOB DAVIS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2577) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 310 South State Street in St.