

most people think of the responsibilities of a Member of Congress, they think of our work here in Washington, shaping policy and passing legislation. But much of the job we do is focused on our own communities back home, serving as advocates for our hometowns and neighborhoods.

Over the two decades that he served in Congress, Ron Packard excelled in both these roles. In the House he rose to become an Appropriations subcommittee chairman, one of the so-called "Cardinals" who have a special responsibility for shaping our government's spending policy.

But he was always focused on finding ways to help out his constituents and neighbors back home. Congressman Packard started out in local politics, as director of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce. Strengthening the economy of his community and his state was his overriding passion. Like many Californians, Ron Packard was a pioneer, moving to California to serve in the United States Navy. After his service he settled here, and helped to build our state, as a dentist and local businessman.

This blend of military and private sector experience made Congressman Packard uniquely qualified to deal with one of the great economic challenges that California has had to confront over the last decade—the decline in huge defense budgets that came with the end of the Cold War. The California economy has had to adjust to this new reality, and Congressman Packard was a leader in this effort, whether it was cleaning up or converting old military sites or supporting efforts to diversify the local economy.

Congressman Packard retired so that he could spend more time with his family. I understand that he now has thirty-four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, so I expect that spoiling all those youngsters will keep him quite busy.

This bill is a fitting tribute to Congressman Packard for the years of service he has provided to this House, his community and his country. Thank you again Mr. ISSA.

Mr. OSE. Mr. 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. 4794.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. 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.

JIM FONTENO POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4717) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1199 Pasadena Boulevard in Pasadena, Texas, as the "Jim Fonteno Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4717

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

SECTION 1. JIM FONTENO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1199 Pasadena Boulevard in Pasadena, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Jim Fonteno 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 Jim Fonteno Post Office Building.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4717, introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN), designates a post office located in Pasadena, Texas, as the Jim Fonteno Post Office Building. Members of the entire House delegation from the State of Texas are cosponsors of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, during his 28-year tenure as Harris County commissioner, Commissioner Jim Fonteno has championed many projects to improve east Harris County. For instance, one of his first initiatives was to create senior citizen centers throughout east Harris County. Today these senior centers are available throughout Harris County, and it is a tribute to Commissioner Fonteno for his foresight in championing their establishment. These multiservice centers provide many services to senior citizens, including transportation services to and from the centers. In addition, Commissioner Fonteno has worked to improve local recreation facilities by upgrading equipment, purchasing land, and building new facilities.

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There are currently 35 parks in Commissioner Fonteno's precinct, covering 4,000 acres and providing 30 miles of hiking and biking trails. Commissioner Fonteno has also worked to improve the services available to youth by establishing the East Harris County Youth Program, which serves at-risk boys and girls with summer camps and after-school programs. Both of these programs help young people to succeed both academically and socially.

The renaming of the Pasadena post office building in honor of Commissioner Jim Fonteno is a well-deserved honor. He has tirelessly served the citizens of East Harris County through his many public and civic endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H.R. 4717.

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

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

As a member of the House Committee on Government Reform I rise in support of H.R. 4717, legislation naming a post office after Jim Fonteno. H.R. 4717, which was introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN) on May 14, 2002, has met the committee policy and enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire Texas delegation.

Jim Fonteno is a county commissioner in East Harris County, Texas; and for over 28 years, Commissioner Fonteno has worked to deliver services to senior citizens and the young people of his community. He has improved local recreation facilities, established camps and after-school programs for at-risk youth and created senior centers for the elderly.

Commissioner Jim Fonteno is known throughout the county for his dedication to public service, and I am pleased to join with my colleagues in seeking to honor such a man.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN).

(Mr. BENTSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee for yielding me the time today.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 4717, legislation that I am sponsoring along with the entire Texas delegation, to rename the post office at 1199 Pasadena Boulevard in Pasadena, Texas, in my congressional district as the Jim Fonteno Post Office Building. As has been mentioned, Jim Fonteno has served as a member of the Harris County Commissioner Court for Precinct 2 in East Harris County since 1974 and will be retiring at the end of this year.

First elected in 1974, Jim Fonteno has exhibited dedication and compassion for those he served in East Harris County. He is and has been a permanent fixture throughout the region. Beloved by his constituents, Commissioner Fonteno can be found mingling at one of the many centers he helped to develop, riding on a Precinct 2 bus to an Astros game with them or serving as an auctioneer for one charitable group or another, notoriously wearing his Precinct 2 cap and corralling wandering politicians to ante up for the cause.

Jim Fonteno is a veteran of both the United States Army and Merchant Marines. Prior to service as county commissioner, Jim Fonteno served as municipal court judge for the city of Baytown, Texas. He also served as port commissioner for the Port of Houston Authority before he was elected to the office of county commissioner. Jim and his wife, JoAnn, have seven grown children and live in the Northshore area of East Harris County. He is an active member of the Holy Trinity United Methodist Church.

Of particular note is the commissioner's famed senior citizens program. Shortly after taking office in 1975, Commissioner Fonteno went to work on implementing a program that would address the unique needs of senior citizens in Precinct 2. Commissioner Fonteno did not believe retirement should mean resignation from one's community; but he realized that for many of his constituents, most of whom were working people on fixed incomes, retirement meant just that. He also realized that for many, particularly widows, that lack of adequate nutrition and social and physical activity would result in a degraded life just at the time when one should be enjoying themselves for a lifetime of labor.

Realizing there were no county funds for such a program, Commissioner Fonteno formed East Harris County Senior Citizens. This nonprofit program provides activities and transportation to the seniors throughout the precinct. Additionally, activities and meals are made available to seniors at the multiservice centers established by Commissioner Fonteno. Veterans' medical needs are also addressed, and transportation is provided to and from the VA hospital.

One of the most critical needs that seniors faced was obtaining adequate transportation. Because seniors had limited transportation, many of them were literally inactive. Without it, many would remain shut in and excluded from county activities.

In 1976, Commissioner Fonteno, along with four area businessmen, signed a note on a 32-passenger bus nicknamed the Fun Bus. Today, the fleet includes 21 buses, five of which are equipped for the physically challenged. The buses are used to transport senior citizens to various places and activities.

Over the past 28 years, Jim Fonteno has built a network of senior activity centers and nutrition and health programs that have enriched the lives of thousands of senior citizens throughout East Harris County. Commissioner Fonteno has remained steadfast throughout his career in ensuring that senior citizens in every corner of his precinct are served, and he never shied way from the difficult odds in establishing this revered program.

Another important initiative for Commissioner Fonteno was his effort to beautify and improve local recreation areas in East Harris County. Commissioner Fonteno has worked in

conjunction with the Parks Department to provide safe and attractive environments by upgrading equipment, purchasing land, and building new facilities.

Today, accommodations in Precinct 2 include ADA/CPSC-approved playground equipment, picnic facilities, baseball and soccer fields, boat ramps and fishing piers. Through his leadership, there are now 35 parks in Precinct 2 covering 4,000 acres, including 30 miles of hike and bike trails.

In 1992, Commissioner Fonteno initiated a wildflower program saving the taxpayer funds and increasing the aesthetic value of the property. Today, there are 67 wildflower areas which are part of the Parks Department and can be seen throughout Precinct 2.

Commissioner Fonteno also worked to improve the opportunities for our Nation's youth. Early in his career, Commissioner Fonteno established the East Harris County Youth Program, which is dedicated to serving the young people. The program, which started as a pilot program as a summer camp at the J.D. Walker Community Center and an after-school program at Cloverleaf Elementary, now offers comprehensive services to youth from first to fifth grade for at-risk individuals. The program is targeted to help boys and girls from any ethnic background who may face challenges, both academically and socially, to succeed.

Commissioner Fonteno's motto has always been: "A day's work for a day's pay." His hardworking ethic is renowned in our area as someone who has dedicated this life to public service. In his spare time, Commissioner Fonteno has helped to raise \$4 million for various nonprofit organizations through his work as a licensed auctioneer. He has been a hands-on public servant working 7 days a week to meet the needs of his constituents.

As I have traveled the parts of the 25th Congressional District which overlap with Precinct 2, it is more often than not that I come across Commissioner Fonteno's tracks. Nothing occurs within his precinct that he does not take interest in or offer to help and assist. He has been a tremendous leader for our county, particularly East Harris County, for more than a quarter of a century. I applaud him for his service to our community and commend him for all he has championed to improve our lives.

Naming the U.S. Post Office in Pasadena, Texas, after Jim Fonteno is a tribute to the service and leadership he has provided to all of East Harris County.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, joining my colleagues in paying tribute to a leader in Harris County, TX, who is retiring from office this year. Harris County Commissioner Jim Fonteno, in his 27th year of service to the county, has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and his constituents with his tireless devotion to his job. The Jim Fonteno Post Office is our small way of repaying him for all he has done over the years.

A veteran of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Merchant Marine, Commissioner Fonteno has a long history of public service. He has served as a municipal judge for the city of Baytown, served two terms as the commissioner of the Port of Houston, and, since his swearing-in on January 1, 1975, has represented the residents of precinct two in Harris County.

Over the years, Commissioner Fonteno has been an advocate for those often neglected or forgotten in our society. When he took office, he recognized the need for programs aimed at senior citizens, and, when he realized that the County did not have the money, he formed East Harris County Senior Citizens, a nonprofit corporation.

The most critical need seniors faced was adequate transportation. Because seniors had limited transportation, many of them were inactive and isolated from the rest of the community. In 1976, Commissioner Fonteno, along with four area businessmen, signed a note on a 32-passenger bus nicknamed "The Fun Bus." Today, the fleet includes 21 buses, five of which are equipped for the physically challenged.

These buses are used to transport senior citizens to various places and activities. East Harris County Senior Citizens sponsor various activities throughout the year, including trips to sporting events such as Houston Astros, Comets, and Aeros games, and the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo.

One of the most popular events sponsored by the East Harris County Senior Citizens is the Senior Citizen Olympics, held annually throughout precinct two. These fun-filled events provide both social and physical interaction among senior citizens.

However, not every senior is able to attend these events. The distinctive needs of the seniors in the 18 nursing homes located throughout precinct two are addressed by the Nursing Home Program. Special activities such as movie parties, manicures, and the Ms. Golden Years Pageant are offered to nursing home residents. In addition, the handicap buses are utilized for field trip outings.

All of these activities are funded solely by grants, fund raisers, and private donations made to the 501-C3 corporation.

Another cause that Commissioner Fonteno devoted a great deal of time to was the well-being of our youth. The East Harris County Youth Program, which he founded, is dedicated to serving the needs of the Harris County precinct two youth. The program originated as a pilot program comprising a summer camp at J.D. Walker Community Center and an after-school program at Cloverleaf Elementary School.

The single most important role of the East Harris County Youth Program is to serve as a vehicle that makes learning fun. Designed to be a resource, not a substitute for school systems, the program is a strong proponent of students staying in school.

Although academic achievements receive top priority, the East Harris County Youth Program also puts an emphasis on physical activity.

I am proud to know Jim Fonteno, proud to call him a friend, and honored to be his representative in the U.S. House of Representatives.

My only regret is that, after all these years in public service, we will no longer have Commissioner Fonteno, his experience, and his

wisdom, at the commissioner's Court, fighting for the people of precinct two. I thank Jim Fonteno for his service, and wish him the best as he settles into a well-deserved retirement.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of a great man, a great Texan, and a great fellow-Houstonian. Commissioner Jim Fonteno truly deserves the honor of having his name placed on the Pasadena Post Office Building.

Commissioner Fonteno has touched the lives of every person in East Harris County, from the youngest to the oldest. He has worked tirelessly for the youth of the area, establishing the East Harris County Youth Program, which provides wonderful opportunities for "at risk" boys and girls to attend stimulating summer camps and after-school programs. He has supported and improved the many parks, with miles of hiking and biking trails, that serve the people of precinct two.

Perhaps his greatest contribution has been in championing the Senior Citizen Centers throughout Harris County. These centers provide multiple services to seniors, and even bring seniors in to enjoy these services and help them home when they are done. That kind of service and access is difficult to find in this country, and is there because of the good work of Commissioner Fonteno.

The Commissioner has a motto: "A day's work for a day's pay." I believe the people of East Harris County have gotten more than their money's worth out of Commissioner Fonteno.

I thank my colleague from Texas for introducing this resolution. I am pleased to rise in support of it.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONILLA). 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. 4717.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. 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.

SMALL BUSINESS PAPERWORK RELIEF ACT OF 2002

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 444 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 444

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 327) to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, for the purpose of facilitating compliance by

small businesses with certain Federal paperwork requirements and to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements applicable to small businesses, with Senate amendments thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a single motion offered by the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendments. The Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Government Reform. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONILLA). The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER); pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

This rule provides for a single motion offered by the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform to concur with the Senate amendments. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the motion to concur with the Senate amendments, and provides for 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Government Reform.

The purpose of this legislation is to reduce the Federal paperwork burden on small businesses. Mr. Speaker, with the plethora of regulatory mandates on small business growing to unprecedented levels, so, too, is the gigantic task of filling out required paperwork. Our Nation's 23 million small businesses spent approximately 7 billion, billion with a "B," hours filling out Federal paperwork in 1998, according to the Office of Management and Budget. The cost associated with this burdensome paperwork is estimated at \$229 billion, again billion with a "B," and that does not take into account State and local requirements.

As a one-time small businesswoman myself, I know the hurdles that our entrepreneurs face: strangling red tape, burdensome regulations, and mountains of paperwork. H.R. 327 would help to streamline small business' paperwork burden by requiring Federal agencies to publish a list of resources that small businesses could use for complying with applicable paperwork requirements so they can know exactly what is required of them.

In addition, it would require each Federal agency to establish a liaison for small business paperwork requirements and to help small businesses comply with their legal obligations,

and it would establish a task force to consider ways to streamline paperwork requirements even further.

H.R. 327 is a step in the right direction. It relieves our Nation's small businesses from an overwhelming paperwork burden that threatens to bury them. To that end I urge my colleagues to support this rule and to support the common-sense underlying legislation. It is a bicameral, bipartisan agreement that the Senate has already passed.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from North Carolina, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule and in support of the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when large corporations and manufacturers are announcing layoffs and scaling back production, more and more regions of the country are learning what western New York already knows; that the small business sector can be the real economic engine for our communities. Small businesses generate the jobs that keep our cities and towns vibrant, they generate the opportunities that anchor our sons and daughters to family and home, and they foster the innovators who represent the brightest hope for our future.

Last month I was pleased to host the Small Business Administration's 2002 Young Entrepreneur of the Year, a young man named Aaron Zach Philips from Rochester, New York. Although only 25 years old, Zach has achieved remarkable success. He is the president of Kink BMX, a manufacturer and distributor of BMX bicycle parts and related soft goods. Since 1999, Zach has doubled his company's growth annually with sales reaching nearly \$1 million as of March 31, 2001. Zach now does business outside the United States and sells his product through distributors in Europe, Canada, Australia, and Japan. On every mailing logo, every label, every brochure or marketing tool he prints the words "Rochester Made Means Quality Made."

Zach embodies a growing trend that Congress must continue to foster. Small businesses now account for approximately 75 percent of all new jobs added to the economy and represent 99.7 percent of all employers. Small businesses provide almost one-third of the workers with their first jobs and initial on-the-job training in basic skills. The important role small businesses play in keeping our Nation competitive must not be overshadowed by corporate America's clout in this body. We must ensure that entrepreneurs like Zach are afforded the same attention and access to Washington that the large corporate interests enjoy.