

largest crime scene. These workers recovered approximately 20 percent of all the victim remains. 188 of the 1,215 World Trade Center victims whose remains have been identified and returned to their families were recovered at the landfill.

More than 54,000 personal items were recovered: wedding rings, photographs, driver licenses, keys; reminders of lives lived and tragically cut short.

These workers helped the victims' families by giving the families something to hold. These items could never replace the lost ones, but could help give some closure and peace. On July 15, 2002, the cleanup and recovery operations at Fresh Kills Landfill came to a somber conclusion.

We will however, be eternally grateful to the workers at Fresh Kills. We know it wasn't an easy job. But these workers lived up to the best ideals of service by helping so many families.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 492.

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. PUTNAM. 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.

WILLIAM C. CRAMER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5145) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3135 First Avenue North in St. Petersburg, Florida, as the "William C. Cramer Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H. R. 5145

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

SECTION 1. WILLIAM C. CRAMER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3135 First Avenue North in St. Petersburg, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "William C. Cramer 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 William C. Cramer Post Office Building.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PUTNAM. 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. 5145, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5145, introduced by our colleague from the State of Florida (Mr. YOUNG), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, designates a post office at 3135 First Avenue North in St. Petersburg as the William C. Cramer Post Office Building. Members of the entire House delegation from the great State of Florida are co-sponsors of this legislation.

In 1951, Republicans in the Florida legislature were still a rarity; but as Pinellas County sent up an entirely GOP delegation to the 1951 session, there were enough to justify electing a minority leader for the first time. They elected freshman William C. Cramer as the minority leader who, along with two other members of this Pinellas County delegation, made up the entire Republican conference.

It is worth noting under his leadership they soon doubled their numbers to six in the 1954 election.

Mr. Speaker, this post office will recognize former Congressman Bill Cramer for his 16 years of service to the people of Florida. Bill Cramer represented Floridians in the Republican Party of Congress as the ranking member on the House Committee on Public Works, the Subcommittee on Roads and the Committee on Federal Aid Highway Investigation. Prior to his elective service, he also served in the Navy reserves in Europe during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Cramer is a friend and mentor who served our Nation with great honor and distinction in this House. The enactment of this legislation will leave in St. Petersburg, the hometown he so dearly loved and served, a lasting tribute to his service, his patriotism, and his devotion to our Nation. I thank the distinguished chairman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), who is unfortunately unable to be with us today, for introducing this measure. I urge all Members to support the adoption of H.R. 5145.

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

Mr. CLAY. 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. 5145, a bill to designate a facility of the U.S. Postal Service after William C. Cramer.

H.R. 5145 was introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) on July 16, 2002, and enjoys the support

and co-sponsorship of the entire Florida congressional delegation. William Cramer was born in Denver, Colorado, and at the age of 3 moved with his parents to St. Petersburg, Florida, where he attended public schools. After serving as a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve and the State House of Representatives, William Cramer was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1955, and served until January 1971. He is currently retired and a resident of St. Petersburg, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the swift passage of this bill.

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

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from the greater Orlando, Florida area (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to come before you in support of this legislation that will name a Federal facility in honor of William C. Cramer, a former Member of this distinguished body.

I have had the opportunity over the past 3 decades to know, and the opportunity to work with, the opportunity to admire Bill Cramer as he is affectionately known. Congressman Cramer, as we have heard, was one of the leaders in Republican-elected service in the State of Florida at a time when all the Republicans in the State legislature could meet in one phone booth and still have plenty of room left over. He not only led the beginning of a two-party system in the Florida legislature when he was first elected to Congress, he was the first and only Republican elected since the Civil War, one lone Republican member of the delegation; and today we have 15 of 23 due to his great legacy of service.

I had the opportunity to work for Bill Cramer as a young man in his campaign for the United States Senate in 1970. Much of what I have learned in campaigns and much of what I learned about elected service comes from the model provided by Bill Cramer. Bill Cramer served in this House and also served as an inspiration for me to become involved in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. He was one of the leading Republican members of its predecessor, the Committee on Public Works, and served with distinction.

Bill Cramer's service is an example of the legacy that we can leave here, not just in words, but also in changing the infrastructure and the opportunity and lives of so many people.

If you go through central Florida and look at the intrastate and the infrastructure projects from end to end, many of them show the handy work of this great leader who we are here to honor. Bill Cramer will be celebrating his 80th birthday, and it could not be more fitting to have any facility named for any individual I know of

than the distinguished former gentleman from this body, the Honorable William C. Cramer.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), who has taken up the mantle of leadership from Mr. CRAMER as the lead advocate for Florida's infrastructure needs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. 5145.

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.

SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES IMPLEMENT WESTERN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION "COLLABORATIVE 10-YEAR STRATEGY FOR REDUCING WILDLAND FIRE RISKS TO COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT"

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 352) expressing the sense of Congress that Federal land management agencies should fully implement the Western Governors Association "Collaborative 10-year Strategy for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment" to reduce the overabundance of forest fuels that place national resources at high risk of catastrophic wildfire, and prepare a National Prescribed Fire Strategy that minimizes risks of escape, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES 352

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) in the interest of protecting the integrity and posterity of United States forests and wildlands, wildlife habitats, watersheds, air quality, human health and safety, and private property, the Forest Service and other Federal land management agencies should—

(A) fully support the "Collaborative 10-year Strategy for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment" as prepared by the Western Governors' Association, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, and other stakeholders, to reduce the overabundance of forest fuels that place these resources at high risk of catastrophic wildfire;

(B) use an appropriate mix of fire prevention activities and management practices, including forest restoration, thinning of at-risk forest stands, grazing, selective tree removal, and other measures to control insects and pathogens, removal of excessive ground fuels, and prescribed burns;

(C) increase the role for private, local, and State contracts for fuel reduction treatments on Federal forest lands and adjoining private properties; and

(D) pursue more effective fire suppression on Federal forest lands through increased

funding of mutual aid agreements with professional State and local public fire fighting agencies;

(2) in the interest of forest protection and public safety, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior should immediately prepare for public review a national assessment of prescribed burning practices on public lands to identify alternatives that will achieve land management objectives to minimize risks associated with prescribed fire; and

(3) results from the national assessment of prescribed burning practices on public lands as described in paragraph (2) should be incorporated into any regulatory land use planning programs that propose the use of prescribed fire as a management practice.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, citizens in the West are bracing this year in fear of catastrophic fires. The summer is not even over, and we have seen 3.6 million acres burn on State, Federal, and private lands. These catastrophic fires are so intense the fire literally destroys every sign of life and can rage for thousands of acres.

But this is not a new phenomenon or a 1-year event. During the wildfire season, 81,681 fires burned 3.5 million acres that killed 15 firefighters and threatened rural communities nationwide. Congress must take action. Our current Federal strategy to handle catastrophic wildfire is not adequately addressing a looming crisis. The Federal Government must take action to prevent loss of wildlife habitat and to protect rural communities.

This is why I am here today offering H. Con. Res. 352 before the House of Representatives. This wildfire resolution expresses the sense of the U.S. Congress to fully implement the Western Governors Association collaborative 10-year strategy for reducing wild land fire risk to communities and the environment and to prepare a national prescribed fire strategy to minimize risk of escape.

America needs to know Congress understands the forest health crisis is causing these fires and that Congress is taking action. It is important to keep in mind our forests are in constant transformation. A particular forest now will look much different in 10 years and in about 50 years will not look like the same forest. Sometimes a forest can get overpopulated with trees. Some of these trees become diseased, creating enormous amounts of dry timber fuel to spur a catastrophic fire. Reducing forest density and improving the ability of healthy forests to survive expansive wildfires must become the number one priority of Federal forest managers. It is time for Members of Congress to make the tough decisions necessary to end catastrophic losses of wildlife habitat, for-

est resources, and, most importantly, human lives on all Federal forest lands.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 352, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Federal land management agencies should fully support the collaborative 10-year strategy for reducing wild land fire risk to communities and the environment as prepared by the Western Governors Association, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Interior and other stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, the risk of wild land fires to the 192 million Forest Service acres is higher today than ever before. The potential for loss of life and property is also increased in areas where more people are building homes within the wild land urban interface.

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The local communities situated near our unmanaged national forests experience firsthand the ecosystem problems resulting from fires that cannot be controlled. As we consider H. Con. Res. 352, 29 forest fires are burning in our Western states and six of these fires are out of control. Our efforts to extinguish these fires are stretched to the limit because more than one area in the West is experiencing incidents that have the potential to exhaust all agency fire resources.

I applaud President Bush for providing the necessary emergency funds to fight these fires. However, we must continue to think of long-term solutions with four essential goals in mind: The prevention and suppression of wildfires, the reduction of hazardous fuels, the restoration of fire-adapted ecosystem, and the promotion of community assistance. As we focus on these goals, Mr. Speaker, we must encourage the Federal agencies involved to work with the governors in their efforts to deal with the wildland fire and hazardous fuel situation.

The Western Governors 10-year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan provides Federal land management agencies with a plan to reduce the overabundance of forest fuels that place national resources at high risk of catastrophic wildfire. In addition, the plan provides a national assessment of prescribed burning practices to minimize risks of escape.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of H. Con. Res. 352.

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

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), chairman of the subcommittee.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and I commend him for his leadership in