

FRANCIS X. MCCLOSKEY POST
OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3379) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3210 East 10th Street in Bloomington, Indiana, as the "Francis X. McCloskey Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3379

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

SECTION 1. FRANCIS X. MCCLOSKEY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3210 East 10th Street in Bloomington, Indiana, shall be known and designated as the "Francis X. McCloskey 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 Francis X. McCloskey Post Office Building.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHAYS. 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 Connecticut?

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 3379 designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3210 East 10th Street, Bloomington, Indiana, as the Francis X. McCloskey Post Office Building. Congressman Frank McCloskey, a six-term Representative from Indiana, sadly passed away at age 64 on Sunday, November 2, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I want to join with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL) in offering the deepest sympathies to the family of Frank McCloskey and to say to the Chair and to the other Members of this House, Frank was an extraordinarily caring individual, tremendously hardworking, a gentle man and a very effective Member of Congress. Mr. Speaker, he was a devoted Member of this body, with whom many of us served, and we are all saddened to hear the news that he had passed away on Sunday and are grateful for the opportunity to remember him here today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 3379.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3379, and I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT), the ranking

member of the Committee on the Budget.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an old friend and dear colleague. Frank McCloskey and I came to Congress together in 1983, and for all the time that he served here, we sat beside each other on the Committee on Armed Services. I enjoyed him as a person. He became a good friend. I admired him as a colleague. I learned a lot from him.

Frank was plain and unpretentious, but beneath a serious and even studious sort of demeanor, he was passionate about the things that he believed in and dogged in their pursuit. He stayed on top of the issues. We get confronted continually with issue of all sorts.

I will never forget the morning after Reagan made his SDI speech, March 1983. Frank was the one member of the committee then who was probing the Defense Department witnesses about strategic defense. He was skeptical but he was always, always informed and diligent and fair-minded as a critic. Long before Srebrenica, he was troubled, deeply, personally conflicted about the war and current issues in the Balkans, and he was an early advocate and lone supporter of our intervention there. There were those who said it was not feasible, it was not possible or it was not desirable, but in the long run Frank McCloskey's position was vindicated.

Frank McCloskey was not glib. He was not flashy. He was not smooth. He was not, in Sam Rayburn's famous analogy, a show horse, but he was a workhorse. He took his job seriously and never himself. He was never one to preen or pontificate. There was no conceit about him. He was a plain spoken Hoosier who worked hard in the House, worked hard for his constituents, and every election ran hard to hold on to his seat.

Frank was gone from the House before we really knew it, and now he is gone altogether. Naming this post office after him is completely appropriate, though it seems a small gesture. This does give us, however, at least the chance to say to an old colleague whom we greatly respected, well done. Well done for all the years you served here. Well done in all your friendships you have given to us, and also to say to Frank and his family, we have never forgotten you, and this bill proves it.

I hope this post office will also give his constituents, whom he served so well, cause to remember him and all that he did for them. Our hearts go out to his family. We understand their grief. We share their loss, but we hope that they will take solace in hearing his old colleagues here in the House say that the years he spent here were

years well spent in service to his country.

While he left here more than 8 years ago, I believe his example still shines among us, as the passage of this resolution will demonstrate.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL), the sponsor of this legislation.

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding such time to me.

Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday we lost in Indiana another man by the name of Frank. A couple of months ago we lost our Governor, Frank O'Bannon, and this past Sunday, we have lost Frank McCloskey.

Frank was born on June 12, 1939, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Bishop Kendrick High School in Norristown, Pennsylvania in 1957, and got his undergraduate degree at Indiana University in 1968, his law degree at Indiana University in 1971. He served in the United States Air Force from 1957 until 1961. He was a newspaper reporter from 1961 to 1968. Admitted to the Indiana bar in 1971.

He became mayor of the great city of Bloomington, Indiana for 10 years, from 1972 until 1982. He was elected at the ripe old age of 32 years of age. He was in the U.S. Congress from the 8th District from 1983 until 1995.

He was an attorney, he was a good guy, and we are going to miss him. We are losing too many Franks in Indiana. Frank was a special guy. I like what the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) had to say about Frank. He was a good and decent fellow, mellow, mild, dedicated, especially to the cause in Bosnia and made many trips over there. He was a good Congressman.

He created some controversy in this House on an election one time, and I think some Members still remember that, but the House has always been full of controversy, and we look beyond that in these kind of special things that happen to people in their lives.

It is the right thing for us to do today to honor Frank McCloskey by naming this post office after him.

I spoke with Frank last week in the hospital, and he told me he did not want to go. He was still fighting, wanted to fight to live, but he actually told me that he thought that he was not going to win this fight, but he went down swinging.

We have always respected that element in Frank McCloskey. He was a fighter for the things that he believed in, to the last day that he died.

My heart and my prayers go out to Roberta, his wife; his daughter, Helen; and his son, Mark, and to the people of Bloomington, Indiana who loved Frank McCloskey. They will miss him, I know, but we honor him here today by naming this post office in the city that he loved, in Bloomington, Indiana.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indianapolis, Indiana (Ms. CARSON).

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would commend my colleague the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL) who represents the district that the Honorable Frank McCloskey represented so well, and certainly appreciate very much the fact that he has expedited this measure to the floor today on behalf of a great man.

Congressman Frank McCloskey passed away Sunday after a long battle with cancer, and as my colleagues already know, the Honorable Frank McCloskey served more than 10 years as mayor of Bloomington and was an elected Member of Congress for 6 years.

What I think, Mr. Speaker, that I would emphasize today is that this country has produced great scientists. When I fly back and forth from Indianapolis on a weekly basis, I think about the incredible brilliance of the Wright brothers who taught us how to annihilate space and circumscribe time, and I am wondering when and where and how we will be able to amass that same kind of talent to eradicate this deadly, deadly disease called cancer.

Frank McCloskey was a very strong man who brought to the ears and eyes of America the problems with ethnic cleansing among the Balkans in Bosnia, a very courageous and decent individual, and I know that his wife Roberta is full of pain, even though she would not want to see him in pain any longer. His congressional career, the leadership that he exhibited, the fact that he worked at the local bases and was just an ordinary person, a reporter for the Star and the Herald-Telephone in Bloomington, and the City News Bureau in Chicago, named director of the Kosovo programs for the Democratic National Institute for International Affairs, where he was teaching leaders how to govern democratically.

I am pleased to support this effort by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL) on H.R. 3379 designating the Frank X. McCloskey Post Office in memory of the former Frank McCloskey, to the citizens of Bloomington and, yes, to the entire State of Indiana, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation and keep Frank and his family very near and dear in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3379, a bill to designate the Bloomington, Indiana, post office in honor of the late Congressman FRANK McCloskey.

Indiana has lost one of its more dedicated and valued public servants. Frank McCloskey, his sincerity, his compassion for people not only here in America but around the world, was very profound.

I served with him on the Committee on Armed Services when I was a new

Member here, and he was very informative because in the 1993 time period he was very eager to teach a new President at that time about the plights in Bosnia, at a time where our country wanted to turn more inward, and he wanted to focus us more outward.

As I look back on that, a lot of things that Frank spoke of came to pass, and for that reason, for his public service, not only as the mayor of Bloomington but also what he helped do for our country in a very difficult time in the world, this is an honor fitting of the gentleman, and for that, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

□ 1415

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY), the pride of northeastern Indiana, and my neighbor and friend across the water.

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

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in asking all of the House to support this resolution on behalf of a great American, a true Hoosier, and an outstanding public servant, that is, the former Indiana Congressman, Frank McCloskey. Frank devoted his life to serving people, whether it was in the military service of our country, whether it was as a mayor, whether it was as a Member of Congress, or subsequently as a private citizen. He was a man of great passion over those things that mattered to him and those things that mattered to people who could least defend and protect themselves.

Frank McCloskey was a noble man engaged in noble work, and he was a man of courage. The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL) mentioned he was courageous to the last breath that he took. He was always courageous in the words he spoke and in the actions he took in the House of Representatives. Frank did come to Congress in 1983, and he served his district with distinction for 12 years. He was passionate about helping working families, their children and their parents.

It is also said, and it is certainly true, that Frank was as much at home in the coal mines of southern Indiana as he was in the halls of Congress. Frank authored legislation for children to make sure that companies could not send free samples of drugs or cleaning products through the mail without child safety caps. In 1990, he authored other legislation against deceptive practices.

But subsequent to his public service in the United States Congress, he acted most nobly when he took great interest in humanitarian issues worldwide. He was one of the first U.S. public servants to visit Bosnia when it was embroiled in warfare and ethnic cleansing. He successfully brought the suffering to the attention of the American people, our government, and championed

humanitarian intervention; and he continued that work throughout his life.

In 2002, Frank was named director of the Kosovo Programs for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, where he taught other leaders from around the globe how to govern democratically. I would close by again reflecting on Mr. McCloskey's courage, courage of his convictions, of his life, and of his commitment to everyone.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL) for making this resolution possible this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great personal sadness that I rise to pay tribute to Frank McCloskey, who passed away on Sunday surrounded by family and friends, and that is exactly how he lived, surrounded by family and friends. Frank was a respected colleague in this body, a dear friend and a faithful public servant. He was the mayor of Bloomington for 10 years. He was just out of law school when he was elected mayor of Bloomington, and he was always in touch with his district. He was so proud to represent Indiana in the Congress, and those of us who served with him learned from him every single day about the wonders of Indiana and about the prospects for our great country.

Frank was a fighter, a gentleman, a diplomat, a lovely and gracious man, but a fighter. He believed in causes greater than himself, and he worked tirelessly to achieve them. Anyone who served in Congress with Frank knew once he grabbed hold of an idea, he did not let go. In his work on the Committee on Armed Services and Committee on Foreign Affairs, he knew that our highest priority as Members of Congress was to provide for the common defense. He honored that commitment and became an expert on national defense policy. He was passionate and eloquent in his support for the people of Bosnia and a leader in stopping the genocide there. What a source of pride that must have been for him. The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) is nodding his head and acknowledging that Mr. McCloskey was such a champion for human rights and respecting the dignity and worth of every person. He cared deeply for the people of Bosnia and refused to believe that the United States could not stop the atrocities occurring there. On that issue, Frank was ahead of his time, as he was on so many issues.

I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL) for his work to designate the Francis X. McCloskey Post Office Building. Frank served on the post office and civil service subcommittee, and I know it would be a source of great pride to have a post office named in his honor.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Roberta and their two children. I had

the pleasure of being in their company on a number of occasions and spoke to Frank as recently as last week. He was still a fighter and was fighting to get through this rough patch. But he knew that he had wonderful things in store, but they might not be with us here on Earth. We hope it is a comfort to Roberta and Frank's children that so many people share their loss. We miss Frank not only as a colleague, but as a precious and dear friend. He was a leader. People who never met him benefited from his great service in this Congress of the United States. Again our sympathies go out to his family, to his constituents whom he cared so much about, and I thank again the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL) for making this tribute to Frank possible.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the Democratic whip.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once remarked, "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."

Today as we note the untimely passing on Sunday afternoon of our friend and former colleague, Indiana Congressman Frank McCloskey, who lost a year-long battle with cancer, let it long be remembered that this Hoosier embraced not only the important concerns of his constituents in southwest Indiana, but also the broader concerns of all humanity.

In the early 1990s, I worked very closely with Congressman McCloskey and others to call attention to the atrocities and ethnic cleansing perpetrated by Slobodan Milosevic and his henchmen in Bosnia. Many in the international community, indeed many in this country, looked away. Frank McCloskey did not.

A fact-finding trip to Bosnia in 1991 stirred and galvanized Frank's passion. As a member of the Committee on Armed Services and Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congressman McCloskey was among the first in Congress to call for air strikes against Serbian positions in Bosnia-Herzegovina from which Bosnians were being shelled and murdered. Frank urged that Slobodan Milosevic be tried as a war criminal, which now is happening. He and I worked to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia, and he was not shy in criticizing the Clinton administration when he disagreed with its handling of that conflict.

Mr. Speaker, political expediency practically demanded that Frank McCloskey focus on shoring up his position in the 8th Congressional District. As is well known, he won his first election to this body in 1984 by four

votes. But in spite of the fact that he won six congressional races in one of the most competitive districts in America, political calculation did not crowd out the humanity in Frank McCloskey's heart. He was commanded by conscience to do what he believed was right.

Frank McCloskey lived a full life serving in the Air Force, working as a newspaper reporter, and serving as Bloomington's mayor for 10 years before he was elected to this Congress.

Let me close, Mr. Speaker, by quoting John Kennedy who inspired Frank and inspired many of us in this body. Kennedy said: "I believe in human dignity as the source of national purpose, human liberty as the source of national action, the human heart as the source of national compassion, and in the human mind as the source of our invention and our ideas."

Mr. Speaker, those were words that Frank McCloskey lived by. We mourn his loss and offer our condolences to Roberta, his wife of 30 years, and his two children, Helen and Mark, as well as his family and many friends. Frank McCloskey made this a better body. He made this country better. We mourn his loss.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once remarked that: "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."

Today, as we note the untimely passing on Sunday afternoon of our friend and former colleague, Indiana Congressman Frank McCloskey—who lost a year-long battle with cancer—let it long be remembered that this Hoosier embraced not only the important concerns of his constituents in southwest Indiana but also the broader concerns of all humanity.

In the early 1990s, I worked very closely with Congressman McCloskey and others to call attention to the atrocities and ethnic cleansing perpetrated by Slobodan Milosevic and his henchmen in Bosnia.

Recall that as the former Yugoslavia disintegrated and Milosevic trained his fury on Bosnia, millions were displaced, hundreds of thousands were killed, and tens of thousands were raped and tortured.

Many in the international community—indeed many in this country—looked away. Frank McCloskey did not.

A fact-finding trip to Bosnia in 1991 stirred and galvanized Frank's passion, which, as the Indianapolis Star said on Monday, dominated both the twilight of his life and his political career. At the time of his death, he was the Director of Kosovo Programs for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, where he taught leaders how to govern democratically.

Back in the 1990s, as a member of the Armed Services and Foreign Affairs Committees, Congressman McCloskey was among the first in Congress to call for air strikes against Serbian positions in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He believed such strikes were needed to prevent hostilities from spilling over to Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia and other provinces.

Frank urged that Milosevic be tried as a war criminal, which now in fact is happening. He

and I worked to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia. And he was not shy about criticizing the Clinton administration when he disagreed with its handling of the conflict.

Mr. Speaker, political expediency practically demanded that Frank McCloskey focus on shoring up his position in the Eighth Congressional District. As is well known, he won his first attempt at re-election to this body in 1984 by four—yes, four—votes.

But in spite of the fact that he won six congressional races in one of the most competitive districts in America, political calculation did not crowd out the humanity in Frank McCloskey's heart. He was commanded by conscience to do what he believed was right—for his constituents, for his nation, and for humanity, too.

Mr. Speaker, Frank McCloskey crowded an enormous amount of living into his 64 years. He served our Nation for 4 years in the Air Force; graduated from Indiana University with bachelor's and law degrees; worked as a newspaper reporter in Chicago, Bloomington and Indianapolis; and served as Bloomington's mayor for 10 years before being elected to Congress.

Still, though his contributions were many, one cannot help but think that they would have been even greater had he been given the gift of more time in his life.

Let me close by quoting John F. Kennedy, who inspired Frank McCloskey, as well as myself: "I believe in human dignity as the source of national purpose," said President Kennedy, "Human liberty as the source of national action, the human heart as the source of national compassion, and in the human mind as the source of our invention and our ideas."

Mr. Speaker, those were words that Frank McCloskey lived by.

We are all the beneficiaries of his tireless efforts on behalf of human rights and basic dignity.

As we mourn his loss and honor him by naming this post office in his honor, I want to express my sincere condolences to his wife of 30 years, Roberta, and his two children, Helen and Mark, as well as his family and many friends.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to second what the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) said. Because of Frank McCloskey's life, there are a lot of people alive in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, and Kosovo. He, along with several other Members, did more to sensitize this Congress, which was not very interested at that time in those areas. Neither the Clinton administration nor the Congress, quite frankly, wanted to do anything with regard to what took place. Frank McCloskey went over there and because of his actions did a lot of good and saved a lot of lives.

Also, as many people know, even after Congressman McCloskey left this Congress, he continued his work. He did not let this cause go. I want to rise to salute Congressman McCloskey; and on behalf of all of the people that are alive in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia and Kosovo, who may not even know the reason why, I thank

Frank on their behalf and want to let his family know he made a tremendous difference not only for their district, not only for our country, but for our entire world.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding me this time and compliment the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL) for bringing forward this resolution, along with the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

All of us cared very deeply for our beloved colleague, Frank McCloskey. To his wife, Roberta, to his children, family and friends, to the citizens of Indiana, you sent America a beautiful man to serve here in this Congress.

I can remember when Frank first arrived. We were both babies of the 1980s here. The economy was not so good. He being from the Hoosier State, and I from the neighboring Buckeye State, were fighting to try to restore some economic sanity to the country so people could have decent jobs at good wages and we could manage our accounts in a way that would be responsible for future generations. He was a part of that great struggle of the 1980s. I remember how in the 1990s after his trip to the Balkans, he would come up to us on the floor and say we cannot tolerate this genocide. I remember his very straight, erect figure becoming a bit bent as the weight of that affected him. I could see it in his face. The young Congressman who had come here was taking on a cause that was global in proportion. He truly made a difference. Millions and millions of children will grow up in a different and better world because of the life that he lived.

He was beyond reproach in terms of his honor and his devotion to public service. He always had a good word for us. He was such a pleasant gentleman here. He added to the comity. Partisanship was not the main aspect that drove Frank.

When we look up on the wall of Congress, there is a saying by Daniel Webster which talks about performing something in your time and generation worthy to be remembered. Surely, Congressman Frank McCloskey of Indiana fits that level of achievement as a Member of this precious body of the Congress of the United States, and we send deepest condolences to his family. He made a difference.

□ 1430

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn with those who mourn, and grieve with those who grieve, with gratitude for my colleague the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL) for his

swift and decisive leadership in moving this important legislation honoring a great public servant, Frank McCloskey, to the floor of the Congress of the United States.

When Frank McCloskey breathed his last this Sunday, Indiana lost a leader, but as we have heard again and again from colleagues who served with him and those who simply admired his work from afar, the world community most certainly lost a champion of justice. Congressman Frank McCloskey was a man of courage, courage he demonstrated very recently in his struggle with cancer, staying positive and optimistic even to the very end in all of his public statements to family and friends and neighbors.

But he was also, as we have heard today, a man of genuine courage in public service. In addition to his tenacity in representing the people of southwestern Indiana during six terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, Frank McCloskey will long be remembered for his courage in challenging the United States to confront the genocidal aims of President Slobodan Milosevic in the Balkans.

As a member of the House Committee on International Relations, I had the occasion to speak to former Congressman Frank McCloskey on several occasions about his efforts to confront the evils of ethnic cleansing and what was without exaggeration, Mr. Speaker, his foresight and his vision. Long before the world community and long before the United States, certainly, came to recognize the threat to peace and the deep injustice that was taking place in the Balkans, Indiana's Frank McCloskey came to this floor and spoke with passion.

It is accurate to say as we remember him here and we commemorate him in a building in his beloved home State, that also the name of Frank McCloskey will be remembered by generations of Bosnians. In fact, there are thoroughfares in that nascent nation this day that bear his name. Generations of Bosnians will remember the name of Frank McCloskey of Indiana on a short list of leaders who, across the globe, had the vision to confront the evil aims of the Serbian dictator who beset them.

It has been said long ago that a man who has done nothing for mankind should fear to die. I speak with confidence and humility when I say I am sure Frank McCloskey did not fear to die given his extraordinary contributions to life and liberty in the Balkans. We mourn his loss with his friends, his colleagues, most especially his wife, his family and his children. We strongly support this resolution and this measure to recognize this true Indiana leader.

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

In closing for our side, I did not have the opportunity to serve with Representative McCloskey, but from lis-

tening to the accolades that have been given to him by his colleagues who did serve with him and know him, it is clear that he was not only honorable, but that he was also seriously committed to what he believed in even if, at the time, there was not the full level of support that one often looks for. I commend the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL) for introducing this resolution. I commend all of the members of the Indiana delegation, all of those who are supportive of this measure. I urge its swift passage.

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

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

I join with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) in thanking the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL) for introducing this resolution and thanking our colleagues for coming to the floor of the House and reminding us of what Mr. McCloskey has done, just some of what he has done, and to again urge passage of this resolution.

Mr. BURTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of my former colleague and fellow Hoosier, Congressman Frank X. McCloskey, upon his untimely death after a year-long battle with bladder cancer. I strongly support the "Francis X. McCloskey Post Office Building Designation Act" (H.R. 3379), renaming the United States Post Office located in downtown Bloomington, Indiana, after former Congressman McCloskey.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1939, McCloskey attended high school in Norristown, PA, and entered the Air Force immediately after graduation. After honorably serving his country, McCloskey attended Indiana University, where he received both his undergraduate degree and a Doctorate of Jurisprudence. He then settled down in Bloomington and began his service to both the state of Indiana and our Nation in a most distinguished manner, beginning with his ten-year term as mayor of the city of Bloomington. McCloskey had the highest of aspirations, and was eventually elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1982, serving a 6-term career as U.S. Representative from the 8th Congressional District of Indiana.

During his tenure in the House of Representatives, Frank McCloskey became highly involved in the Balkan crisis, introducing several pieces of legislation seeking to avert a humanitarian disaster in the former Yugoslav republics. In the years following his Congressional service, Frank drew upon those experiences in foreign relations and human rights by pursuing formal training in Balkan studies and serving as a mediator in negotiations over territorial disputes in Bosnia. As a result of his dedication and tireless efforts, McCloskey was awarded by being named Director of Kosovo Programs for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.

Mr. Speaker and my esteemed colleagues, please join me in honoring and recognizing the service and commitment that Congressman Frank McCloskey gave to his fellow Hoosiers, the American people, and the international community. It is only fitting that we dedicate a last memorial by renaming the Post Office in downtown Bloomington, Indiana, after a man who helped change the course of history and served the public with distinction.

Please join me in supporting the "Francis X. McCloskey Post Office Building Designation Act."

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 3379, a bill to designate the Bloomington, Indiana Post Office in honor of the late Congressman Frank McCloskey. Indiana has lost one of its most dedicated and valued public servants. Frank McCloskey's sincerity and compassion for people, not only here in America, but around the world, was profound. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this time. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

Mr. SHAYS. 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 Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3379.

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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2559, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2559, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 429, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2559) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). Pursuant to House Resolution 429, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of November 4, 2003, at page H10253.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG).

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

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present to the House the conference report on H.R. 2559, the fiscal year 2004 military construction appropriations conference report. This legislation provides funds for all types of construction projects on military installations here in the United States and abroad. These projects include family housing, barracks, training ranges, runways, aircraft hangars and fitness facilities.

I would in particular like to thank my ranking member, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), for all the great work that he has worked with me on, all the great activity. I also wanted to thank all members of the committee. Let me thank, in addition, the committee staff, including, and I am going to run down the list, Valerie Baldwin, Brian Potts, Kim Reath, Mary Arnold, Tom Forhan, John Conger, Jeff Onizuk and Lieutenant Commander Scott Gray for their support in producing this report. I would also like to sincerely thank Chairman YOUNG and the chief clerk Jim Dyer for their assistance in bringing this negotiation with the other body to a close. Further, I would like to acknowledge the advice and counsel provided by the House Committee on Armed Services. The bill is the culmination of a joint effort with subcommittee chairman HEFLEY and full committee chairman HUNTER.

The conference report today totals some \$9.316 billion which complies with the 302(b) allocation for budget authority and outlays. This recommendation is \$199 million more than the President's request. These additional funds address critical infrastructure and quality-of-life requirements above and beyond that request. Excluding funds provided for the global war on terrorism and the Iraq/Afghanistan supplementals, the conference report is nearly \$1.4 billion, or nearly 13 percent below fiscal year 2003 enacted levels. This year there were significant differences between the House's military construction bill and that of the other body. While we sought to preserve funding for military construction in Europe and Korea and to support the quality of life and operational readiness of our forces abroad, the other body chose to significantly reduce overseas funding to support projects here in the United States.

I am pleased to inform my colleagues that this conference report strikes a balance between both these ap-

proaches. We preserve the most critical overseas requirements for the services, but brought the balance of the funding for other overseas projects back to the United States to fund critical infrastructure here. While the House aggressively supported the President's request and the priorities of the combatant commanders in this conference report, we share the concern of the other body about funding overseas projects in light of the ongoing review of our overseas footprint. The review currently being conducted by the Department of Defense will determine our long-term overseas basing strategy and will thus help us set funding requirements to support our forces abroad. It will be absolutely essential for both military construction subcommittees to have the completed plan prior to moving forward with the military construction appropriation for fiscal year 2005. We look forward to receiving this plan in the very near future.

Though this conference report is below the fiscal year 2003 enacted levels, we are fully supporting the military's mission critical infrastructure needs and quality-of-life initiatives. We are able to do so in large part because we are getting far more "bang for the buck" through innovative programs such as the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, barracks privatization and utilities privatization. These programs are enabling the services to rapidly replace family housing and infrastructure at a cost that is dramatically lower than what we could ever have afforded through traditional military construction appropriations. Our motto is to let the military do what they do best, which is defending America.

In short, we are doing it smarter, not harder, and the beneficiaries are single soldiers, military families, men and women serving our country around the world and the U.S. taxpayers. We have and will continue to support sweeping quality of life improvements for those in the military.

This conference report was forged through the compromise of both bodies of this Congress. This report directly supports the men and women in uniform, fully funds projects vital to our national security, provides critical infrastructure support to ongoing operations worldwide, and fully funds our efforts to improve the quality of life of our military personnel and their families. It is a fair report. I encourage my colleagues to support it.