

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLANCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. 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 Tennessee?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased that the House is considering H.R. 3353. This bill names a post office after a great American statesman, George Henry White. From 1897 to 1901, Republican George Henry White served two terms as the U.S. Representative for North Carolina's Second Congressional District. At that time, he was the only African American Member of Congress. As such, not only was Congressman White responsible for his North Carolina constituents, but as the highest-ranking black government official in the Nation he also shouldered the burden of representing the 10 million African Americans at the turn of the century.

Congressman White took principled stands against the racial inequality that was far too prevalent for this time period in American history. His eloquence and temperance toward injustice made him a well-respected Member of Congress, and he is truly worthy of commendation by this body from which he departed more than 100 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation commemorates George Henry White's courageous legacy as the last black Member of this House following Reconstruction. I congratulate the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLANCE) for having his bill considered by the whole House.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 3353.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we gather this afternoon to honor a great man and leader who blazed trails for African Americans not only in North Carolina but throughout the Nation, Congressman George Henry White from my home State of North Carolina.

I want to express my appreciation for the strong bipartisan support from the North Carolina delegation and the sponsorship of this bill.

We are here today, Mr. Speaker, to show our appreciation for Congressman White by naming the post office after him in Tarboro, North Carolina, the town which he represented; and the

County of Edgecombe, which he represented with distinction as a part of the second congressional district, I now have the great privilege of representing that same community, humbly following in his footsteps.

Mr. George Henry White was born in Rosendale, Bladen County, North Carolina, during slavery. He grew up the son of a sharecropper in nearby Columbus County. He was educated at the Whitten School in Lumberton. He first embarked on his trail of excellence when he left his job as a farm laborer and ventured here to the Nation's Capital to attend Howard University. Many people mistake him as being a graduate of Howard Law School, but actually he was a graduate of high school and Howard undergraduate school.

Upon graduation from Howard University in 1877, Mr. White returned to North Carolina settling in the coastal town of New Bern, to begin the fight to better his North Carolina for all families and helping empower the African American community.

He became a teacher and then a principal and is credited with establishing four new schools. Mr. White knew then what we all know now: information is power, and the key to steering one's own course is a quality education.

While living in New Bern, where he also worked as an attorney, having read law to become a lawyer, Mr. White embarked upon a career in public service spanning more than 2 decades when, in 1880, he was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives.

In 1884 he was elected to the North Carolina State Senate. And in 1886 he was elected as a solicitor for the second judicial district of North Carolina where he served two terms. During this time, George Henry White was the only African American district attorney in the United States. Continuing a political career steeped in innovation and leadership, blazing trails unheard of in his day, in 1894 Mr. White moved to Tarboro. It might be interesting to know that the one reason he moved was because there was redistricting going on and his hometown of New Bern was carved out of the second district. So he just packed up and moved down to Tarboro, North Carolina, his wife's hometown.

Three years later, he would become Congressman White, and only the third African American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from North Carolina, John Adams Hyman being the first, Henry P. Cheatham the second.

Congressman White was the only African American in the United States Congress during his two terms and was the highest-ranking elected African American in the United States. He essentially represented not only citizens of the second congressional district but all 10 million African Americans across the Nation. He was the last former slave and the last African American to serve in the Congress during the post-Reconstruction era.

He opened doors while in Congress to pave the way for the civil rights movement more than half a century later. He campaigned against racial discrimination and urged enforcement of the second section of the 14th amendment.

In January 1901, his last year in office, Congressman White proposed a bill that would make lynching of African Americans a Federal crime. Unfortunately, this bill did not pass; but it did have some impact in the Deep South in particular. Despite Congressman White's passionate plea, as I indicated, the term ended without his bill passing.

George Henry White's farewell speech on the floor of Congress, often referred to as the "Phoenix Speech," or his farewell speech, was made January 29, 1901: "This, Mr. Chairman, is perhaps the Negroes' temporary farewell to the American Congress; but let me say, Phoenix-like he will rise up some day and come again. These parting words on behalf of an outraged, heartbroken, bruised and bleeding, but God-fearing people, faithful, industrious, loyal, rising people full of potential force."

Mr. Speaker, while Congressman White is deserving of far greater accolades, and I am sure they will come in time, it is my great pleasure to offer this legislation on his behalf. I urge the passage of this bill.

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLANCE) for introducing this very appropriate bill, and I urge all of our colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 3353.

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 Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3353.

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.

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**JAMES E. DAVIS POST OFFICE BUILDING**

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1590) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service, located at 315 Empire Boulevard in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, New York, as the "James E. Davis Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1590

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

**SECTION 1. JAMES E. DAVIS POST OFFICE BUILDING.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 315 Empire Boulevard in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, New York, shall be known as designated

as the "James E. Davis 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 James E. Davis Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLANCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. 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 Tennessee?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 1590, a bill sponsored by Senator SCHUMER of New York, names a postal facility in Brooklyn, New York, as the James E. Davis Post Office Building. My distinguished colleague on the Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS), authored the House version of this postal naming bill, H.R. 3012. I commend both the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and Senator SCHUMER for their work on this meaningful effort.

Mr. Speaker, James E. Davis was a devoted public official who lived and worked in Brooklyn all of his life. The son of a corrections officer himself, Davis became an officer in the New York Police Department in 1983. After nearly 2 decades on the police force, he was elected to the New York City Council in November of 2001. In that capacity Davis was able to utilize his dynamic public speaking ability. He truly had a gift for connecting with audiences and delivering messages that advocated non-violence.

Mr. Speaker, defeating crime and eliminating violence in inner-city New York were lifelong missions for James E. Davis both as a law enforcement and elected official. This reality made July 23, 2003, an even more ironically tragic day for New Yorkers as well as all Americans. On that afternoon, James Davis had invited a political rival to City Hall to attend a council meeting. Just after 2 o'clock, Councilman Davis' guest brandished a handgun and inexplicably shot Davis twice in the chest. Mr. Davis sadly passed away at a nearby hospital later that afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, many of us saw the story of James E. Davis' tragic murder in New York City Hall on national newscasts last summer. I want to join with the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and Senator SCHUMER in extending the sympathy of all Members of Congress to the family, friends, and

supporters of James E. Davis. I am pleased that passage of this legislation will immortalize James E. Davis' contributions to his community and to the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 1590.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand at this time as the designee for the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) on behalf of this resolution. I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of S. 1590, legislation naming a postal facility after the late James E. Davis.

S. 1509, which was introduced by Senator SCHUMER on September 8, 2003, was unanimously adopted by the Committee on Government Reform on November 6, 2003. An identical bill, H.R. 3012, sponsored by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) has the support and cosponsorship of the entire New York delegation.

Mr. James Davis was born in 1962 and graduated from Tilden High School in Brooklyn, New York in 1980. He obtained a degree from Pace University in 1989 and then joined the New York City Correctional Department. He became a police officer in 1991 and was assigned to the 73rd Precinct in Brooklyn. A youth officer, Mr. DAVIS served in the New York Police Department until he decided to enter the political arena in 1988 by running for assemblyman for the 43rd District. Although unsuccessful, he ran again and won office in November 2001, where he served as councilman for the 35th District.

Tragically, as we have just heard, Councilman Davis' life was cut short when he was gunned down in a violent shooting in the City Hall at the young age of 41.

Mr. Speaker, James Davis was a man of the community. He has dedicated his life to improving conditions in Brooklyn, New York, helping young people realize their dreams and stopping urban violence.

I commend my colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and Senator SCHUMER for seeking to honor the legacy of Councilmember James Davis and urge the adoption of this bill.

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I urge passage of S. 1590, and I urge all of my colleagues to join in support of this very worthwhile and appropriate measure.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as the lead sponsor of the House version of S. 1590, I am pleased that we are considering this legislation today. S. 1590 would rename the post office located at 315 Empire Boulevard in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, New York, as the "James E. Davis Post Office Building." I would also like to note that this bill has been cosponsored by the entire New York delegation, and I

would like to thank my colleagues from New York for doing so.

On that tragic day when Councilman James Davis of Brooklyn was murdered in a violent shooting in City Hall, New York City, we lost a true public servant. He was an intelligent, passionate, and energetic young man who had an extremely bright future. He worked very hard and took his duties as a public servant very, very seriously. He was only 41 years old and had served almost one term in the New York City Council. But he had already made his mark.

I met James through the Youth March Against Violence that he organized. His commitment to this issue was genuine.

However, when I think of him, I remember one of the last conversations we had, which I think really embodies his approach to public service. We were meeting with housing authority officials, and he told them we weren't there to point fingers at every one. But if we didn't work together to get thing done, we would all take the blame. Sound advice that I think all public officials should take to heart.

With James, it was always about the community. He was dedicated to its betterment, having served as a police officer and district leader before being elected to the city council. One could always see the love he had for his neighbors and constituents. Naming a post office after him would be a lasting tribute to all of his hard work for the community that he loved so much. While we still have a heavy heart for losing such a good friend, the James E. Davis post office can help us celebrate his life. I think I can speak for all of Brooklyn when I say that the James E. Davis post office is something that we will all be proud of.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1590.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HUGH GREGG POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3185) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 38 Spring Street in Nashua, New Hampshire, as the "Hugh Gregg Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3185

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

SECTION 1. HUGH GREGG POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 38 Spring Street in Nashua, New Hampshire, shall be known and designated as the "Hugh Gregg 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