

respect based on values which we both learned in small towns named Lexington—one in South Carolina and one in Missouri.

During the years Floyd Spence served on the House Armed Services Committee, he blessed us with his leadership; honored us with his friendship; and inspired us with his courage. Floyd Spence was courteous, thoughtful, respectful of others. It was a pleasure for me to serve in Congress with this decent, fair, and honorable man. We are all the richer for his years of dedicated service to the Armed Services Committee, the Congress, the people of South Carolina, and the Nation. It is so fitting that we act to name the post office in Floyd Spence's hometown in his honor.

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of H.R. 917, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1830 South Lake Drive in Lexington, South Carolina, as the "Floyd Spence Post Office Building."

Floyd Spence began his political career as a Democrat in the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1956, but he is remembered for having the foresight and the courage to switch parties. In 1962, he became the first member of the General Assembly to switch to the Republican Party, which helped pioneer the development of the two-party system in South Carolina. In 1966, he was elected as a Republican to the South Carolina Senate where he served as the Senate Minority Leader.

In 1971, Congressman Spence was elected to the Ninety-second Congress, and represented South Carolina's Second Congressional district for thirty years. During his tenure, he served in a numerous positions of leadership: For thirteen years, he was the Ranking Member of the Ethics Committee. In the 104th Congress, he was elected to represent the Tidewater Region on the Republican Policy Committee. He also served as Chairman of the Committee on National Security and after serving as Ranking Member, became Chairman of the Armed Services Committee following the 1995 Republican takeover of the House.

One of the longest-serving Republicans in the House of Representatives, Floyd Spence maintained one of the highest voting attendance records, while consistently supporting a strong national defense and fiscal integrity. Spence once said, "I make no bones about the fact my Number One priority is defending this country."

He drew his passion for the military from his own experiences. After graduating from the University of South Carolina in 1952, Spence was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy and served aboard the USS *Carter Hall* (LSD-3) and the LSM-397. He was the Group Commander of all Naval Reserve Units in Columbia, South Carolina, and was the Commanding Officer of a Naval Reserve Surface Division. After more than 40 years in the United States Naval Reserve, the Congressman retired as a Captain in 1988. Spence was a member of the American Legion, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Congressman Spence was a longtime Pentagon booster from a state that, like my home state of Florida, benefited greatly from his advocacy. He supported the Reagan administration military buildup and opposed the size of post-Cold War defense cuts made during the Clinton administration.

Congressman Spence was known for his amiable ways. Although opponents often criticized the lack of his own legislation, Spence was a proud voice against big Washington government and he resisted introducing federal legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Floyd Spence was recognized around the world as an authority on defense issues and Communism. His tireless efforts on behalf of our national defense are a testimony to his enduring will to serve and to triumph in the face of adversity. Here in Washington and at home, he was recognized as a man of fiscal integrity and true legislative restraint. As President Bush stated upon his death in 2001, Floyd Spence will be remembered as a true friend of the men and women in our armed services and as a servant of his fellow South Carolinians. He was a leader of great courage and determination.

Mr. Speaker, although I did not have the opportunity to serve with Congressman Spence, I learned a great deal from his example. It is with great admiration that I today support the dedication of the Floyd Spence Post Office Building to a true American patriot.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). 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. 917.

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.

JAMES R. MERRY POST OFFICE

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 981) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 141 Erie Street in Linesville, Pennsylvania, as the "James R. Merry Post Office."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 981

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

SECTION 1. JAMES R. MERRY POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 141 Erie Street in Linesville, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the "James R. Merry Post Office".

(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 R. Merry Post Office.

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.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 981 was introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH). It designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 141 Erie Street in Linesville, Pennsylvania, as the James R. Merry Post Office. The entire House delegation from the State of Pennsylvania has signed on as cosponsors to this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, former State representative Jim Merry was a devoted public servant who worked in the State legislature for the people of Pennsylvania for 16 years. He was known to be well liked by Representatives on both sides of the aisle, and he capitalized on his good relations with colleagues to pass many meaningful pieces of legislation for his district.

Beyond his political career, Jim Merry was remarkably involved in his hometown of Linesville, where he owned for 25 years a successful automotive shop, the Linesville Western Auto Store. In addition, he served as a borough councilman and was active in the local chapters of the American Legion, Rotary Club, and other service organizations.

Sadly, Representative Merry passed away on February 1, 2001. Since James R. Merry was a lifelong resident of the town of Linesville, it would be extremely appropriate if this House would act to rename this post office building in his hometown after one of Linesville's most venerated citizens.

I urge Members to support adoption of H.R. 981. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) for introducing this important measure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 981, which designates a postal facility located at 141 Erie Street in Linesville, Pennsylvania, after James R. Merry was introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) on February 27, 2003.

Mr. Merry was a former Pennsylvania State representative who represented his constituents in the legislature for 16 years, from 1980 to 1996. A graduate of Linesville School, Mr. Merry went on to operate a successful business in town and remained very active in local affairs, serving as a borough councilman and later as president of the local chamber of commerce. As a man dedicated to his community and its residents, it is truly an honor to name a postal facility after the late James R. Merry, who passed away on February 1, 2001. I join Members in support of this measure and urge its swift passage.

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to be here, and I particularly want to thank the chairman and thank the committee for having moved this resolution forward so quickly.

It is a real honor to be able to participate in an action which would recognize the value of the long public service that Jim Merry provided as a community leader and as a member of the State legislature, serving in his last 2 years as chairman of the local government committee and also my colleague at the same time that I was serving in Congress.

This was a great experience for me because during my career as a staffer in the State legislature, I had an opportunity to work with Jim Merry in that capacity, and I saw him from a number of different angles. Jim Merry was the kind of legislator that I think Mr. Jefferson had in mind when he considered that our legislatures would be populated with individuals who were citizen politicians. Jim Merry came by his interest naturally. His father had been a State representative in Crawford County during the 1950s and early 1960s, and Jim had been a borough councilman, had been head of the chamber of commerce, and was enormously active in his community.

When the seat came into play in 1980, Jim ran and in something of an upset won the seat and quickly made it his own. It was a seat that straddled the Erie and Crawford County lines, and a lot of diverse communities; but he reached out everywhere he went. He was a fine legislator, an active community member. He was a great gentleman. The thing that I think is his greatest legacy is, although he was a man of his party, he was a very active Republican. At no time did I ever see him become rancorous about his politics. He worked well with people on both sides of the aisle. He was always committed to finding a way of getting things done and putting that over party politics. Particularly important, he always treated every individual with a great deal of deference.

As someone who learned a lot from Jim Merry, it is a real privilege to be able to play a role in honoring him by renaming the post office in the community that he long represented, Linesville, Pennsylvania, where his family still is, where he was a lifelong resident, after him in recognition of that great community contribution.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Members, and ask for a "yea" vote.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. 981.

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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SECURING BLESSINGS OF PROVIDENCE FOR PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 153) recognizing the public need for fasting and prayer in order to secure the blessings and protection of Providence for the people of the United States and our Armed Forces during the conflict in Iraq and under the threat of terrorism at home.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 153

Whereas the United States is currently engaged in a war on terrorism in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas the Armed Forces of the United States are currently engaged in a campaign to disarm the regime of Saddam Hussein and liberate the people of Iraq;

Whereas, on June 1, 1774, the Virginia House of Burgesses called for a day of fasting and prayer as an expression of solidarity with the people of Boston who were under siege by the enemy;

Whereas, on March 16, 1776, the Continental Congress, recognizing that the "Liberties of America are imminently endangered" and the need "to acknowledge the overruling Providence of God", called for a day of "Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer";

Whereas, on June 28, 1787, during the debate of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin, convinced of God's intimate involvement in human affairs, implored the Congress to seek the assistance of Heaven in all its dealings;

Whereas, on March 30, 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln, at the bequest of the Senate, and himself recognizing the need of the Nation to humble itself before God in repentance for its national sins, proclaimed a day of fasting, prayer and humiliation;

Whereas all of the various faiths of the people of the United States have recognized, in our religious traditions, the need for fasting and humble supplication before Providence;

Whereas humility, fasting, and prayer in times of danger have long been rooted in our essential national convictions and have been a means of producing unity and solidarity among all the diverse people of this Nation as well as procuring the enduring grace and benevolence of God;

Whereas, through prayer, fasting, and self-reflection, we may better recognize our own faults and shortcomings and submit to the wisdom and love of God in order that we may have guidance and strength in those daily actions and decisions we must take; and

Whereas dangers and threats to our Nation persist and, in this time of peril, it is appropriate that the people of the United States, leaders and citizens alike, seek guidance, strength, and resolve through prayer and fasting; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should issue a proclamation—

(1) designating a day for humility, prayer, and fasting for all people of the United States; and

(2) calling on all people of the United States—

(A) to observe the day as a time of prayer and fasting;

(B) to seek guidance from God to achieve a greater understanding of our own failings and to learn how we can do better in our everyday activities; and

(C) to gain resolve in meeting the challenges that confront our Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). 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 to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution 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.

House Resolution 153, introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN), recognizes the public need for fasting and prayer in order to secure the blessings and protection of Providence for the people of the United States and their Armed Forces abroad due to the armed conflict in Iraq and the threat of terrorism here at home.

Mr. Speaker, our great Nation is at battle overseas with the vicious regime of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. The mission Operation Iraqi Freedom aims to dislodge Hussein and his top advisers from power, eliminate weapons of mass destruction from the Iraqi military's arsenal, and free the Iraqi people from Hussein's awful dictatorship. This conflict can lead to a wonderful improvement in the lives of all Iraqi people. The risks of this conflict, however, are terribly significant to all American citizens.

In Iraq, the threats to our remarkable servicemen and women are many. The Iraqi soldiers' resistance may include the deployment of chemical and biological weapons, not to mention the lethality of Iraq's military's conventional weapons. Here at home, the Federal Government has launched Operation Liberty Shield to increase domestic security due to the danger of terrorist attacks within our borders.

This combination of threats to Americans across the globe make passage of this resolution essential and meaningful. Since the birth of our Nation, Americans of all backgrounds, faiths and creeds have especially recognized the value earned from prayer, reflection, sacrifice and humility during times of national crisis.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Resolution 153. I thank my colleague from Missouri for introducing this extremely relevant and valuable measure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us calls on the American people to fast