

the Federal Government will be left behind in the competition for top talents.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 926, the "Federal Employee Student Loan Assistance Act," which will increase the annual and aggregate limits on student loan repayments by Federal agencies.

Many federal employees have undergraduate and graduate degrees, and due to the rising cost of higher education, most of these employees have incurred student loans with hefty payments. Many talented graduates are interested in federal employment, but due to loan repayment burdens, they are unable to seriously consider federal employment. In order to remain competitive with private agencies that offer higher salaries, the federal government must continue to offer additional incentives, such as loan repayment programs.

As tuition costs continue to rise yearly, we must factor this into the existing loan repayment program for federal employees. This bill, which will cost less than \$500,000 per year, will have a significant impact on both current and potential federal employees who are burdened with outstanding student loans. Increasing the yearly and total amounts of loan repayment allotted to individual federal employees helps the federal government to attract the best and the brightest employees, those who might otherwise opt out for higher salaries in the private sector.

This is a good bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support S. 926, the "Federal Employee Student Loan Assistance Act," which will not only help to recruit quality federal employees, but will also encourage longevity and retention of these very same employees. These programs also serve as an excellent model for all employers, both public and private.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, S. 926, the Federal Employee Student Loan Assistance Act, would raise the annual and aggregate amounts that federal agencies can offer a qualified employee to assist in repaying a student loan. This legislation would raise the annual repayment amount for an employee from \$6,000 to \$10,000, and the aggregate repayment amount from \$40,000 to \$60,000.

The purpose of raising the annual and aggregate repayment caps is two-fold. First, higher education tuition costs have increased dramatically in recent years and are considerably higher than they were when the original statute was passed on November 5, 1990. Second, as the federal government works to recruit and retain the best and the brightest, an attractive student loan repayment program should be an effective recruitment tool to help government agencies compete with the private sector.

I would like to commend the Senate sponsors of this legislation for introducing this important legislation, and I would also like to commend the House Civil Service Subcommittee Chairwoman for introducing companion legislation in the House.

I urge all Members to support S. 926.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1530

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 926.

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.

DAVID BYBEE POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2744) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 514 17th Street in Moline, Illinois, as the "David Bybee Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2744

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

SECTION 1. DAVID BYBEE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 514 17th Street in Moline, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "David Bybee 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 David Bybee Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. 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 gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), introduced H.R. 2744, a bill that honors the life of a diligent and admired member of the U.S. Postal Service family, David Bybee. Mr. Bybee served the Postal Service for 33 years as a letter carrier in Moline, Illinois. He was an active member of the National Association of Letter Carriers, representing thousands of postal employees in Illinois as the NALC's National Business Agent for the Chicago area. Away from work, Mr. Bybee

was a fire chief, school board member, Elks Club member, and he enjoyed, most of all, spending as much time as he could with his family.

Mr. Speaker, David Bybee sadly passed away on May 31, 2002. He is survived by his wife, Judy; his two sons, Michael and John; his mother, Marilla; his brother, Richard; and three grandchildren, Ryan, Brandon and Jennifer. I want to join with the gentleman from Illinois to offer the best wishes of this House to the family of David Bybee.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express gratitude to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) for his valuable work on H.R. 2744, and I urge all Members to support its passage.

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 Committee on Government Reform, I rise in support of H.R. 2744, legislation naming a postal facility located at 514 17th Street in Moline, Illinois, after David Bybee. H.R. 2744, introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) on July 15, 2003, was unanimously approved by our committee on October 8, 2003. The bill has met the Committee on Government Reform policy and has the support and cosponsorship of the entire Illinois State delegation.

Mr. David Bybee began his career with the Postal Service as a letter carrier. He was later elected president of the Letter Carriers Local 318. Mr. Bybee worked as the National Association of Letter Carriers' National Business Agent in Chicago, Region 3, for the last 25 years of his service, and in September of 2000, he retired after 33 years of working at the Moline Post Office.

A family man, David Bybee was active in the union and in his community. He served as a vice president of the Illinois AFL-CIO, was a fire chief, school board member and active in the Moline Elks Club. Sadly, he passed away on May 31, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague for seeking to honor the legacy of David Bybee and urge the swift adoption of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS).

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2744, designating the post office in Moline, Illinois, after my good friend Dave Bybee, who passed away in May of last year.

Dave served as a letter carrier and union leader for 33 years within the very building I seek to name after him. He became a letter carrier for the postal service in 1967, and after only 2 years on the job, was elected president of Letter Carriers Local 318.

Dave Bybee held various positions within the Illinois State Letter Carriers Association from 1971 to 1977. He was elected National Business Agent for the National Association for Letter

Carriers for the entire Chicago region in 1980. He held this position and also served as vice president of the AFL-CIO until his untimely death on May 31, 2002.

Dave worked hard on behalf of America's letter carriers, traveled thousands of miles to fight for them and advocate for their interests. He was well respected by retirees, who knew they had a good friend fighting for their interests and benefits.

Dave Bybee's dedication to his fellow workers did not interfere with his devotion to his wife and two sons, Michael and John. In addition to a full and rewarding family life, he also found time to serve his community as the fire chief of Carbon Cliff and as a school board member, and to remain active on the Moline Elks Club. He had a wonderful sense of humor; and no matter how tired he was from work and travel, he could always manage to make any group he was visiting or speaking to laugh and smile. When he passed away, letter carriers and postal officials from across the State and the Nation traveled to pay their respects to Dave Bybee.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to sponsor this legislation in honor of Dave Bybee, a nationally known letter carrier, who served not only his fellow workers but also his community and friends. It is my hope his name will forever be identified within the institution to which he dedicated so much time and energy. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2744, to rename the U.S. post office in Moline, Illinois, after my good friend, Dave Bybee.

Mr. Speaker, today we will address legislation to name the United States Post Office at 514 17th Street in Moline, Illinois after my friend, David Bybee, who passed away in May of last year.

Dave Bybee served as a letter carrier and union leader for 33 years within the very building I seek to name after him. It is my hope that his name will forever be identified with the institution to which he dedicated so much time and effort.

Dave became a letter carrier for the Postal Service in 1967 and after only two years on the job was elected President of Letter Carriers Local 318. He then became the Regional Administrative Assistant and concurrently the Secretary to the Illinois State Association of Letter Carriers from 1971 to 1977. In 1980, Mr. Bybee was elected the National Business Agent to the National Association of Letter Carriers for the 17,000 strong Chicago Region. He held that office and concurrently served as a Vice President of the Illinois AFL-CIO until his death on May 31, 2002.

Dave worked tirelessly on behalf of Illinois' letter carriers, traveling thousands of miles in Illinois and across the nation to represent them. Dave was also well-respected by retirees, who knew they had a good friend and leader fighting for their benefits. In 1992, recognizing Dave's hard work and lifetime of dedication, the building housing Letter Carriers Local 318 was named the David M. Bybee Branch of the National Association of Letter Carriers in his honor.

David Bybee was also civically active, and had many friends within the Illinois Congres-

sional delegation and state legislature on both sides of the aisle. He served as a member of the Electoral College in two national elections.

His dedication to his fellow workers did not interfere with his devotion to his wife, Judy, and their two sons, Michael and John. In addition to a full and rewarding family life, he still found time to serve his community as the fire chief of Carbon Cliff and as a school board member, and remain active in the Moline Elks Club.

Dave had a wonderful sense of humor and no matter how tired he was from work and travel, he could always manage to make any group he was visiting or speaking to laugh and smile. When he passed away, letter carriers and postal officials from all over the state and nation traveled to Moline to pay their respects.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to sponsor this legislation in honor of David Bybee, a national labor leader who served not only his fellow workers, but also his community and family. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2744, to rename the U.S. Post Office in Moline, Illinois after my friend David Bybee.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2744.

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.

RICHARD D. WATKINS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3175) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2650 Cleveland Avenue, NW in Canton, Ohio, as the "Richard D. Watkins Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3175

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

SECTION 1. RICHARD D. WATKINS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2650 Cleveland Avenue, NW in Canton, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the "Richard D. Watkins 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 Richard D. Watkins Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. 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 gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. 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. 3175. This legislation, sponsored by my distinguished colleague from the State of Ohio (Mr. REGULA), names this post office in Canton, Ohio, as the Richard D. Watkins Post Office Building. The entire delegation from the State of Ohio has cosponsored the bill.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Richard Watkins is a devoted public official who is retiring next month after 12 years as the chief executive of Canton, Ohio. His contributions to the people of east central Ohio are immeasurable, and this post office would be a deserved tribute to Mayor Watkins' service.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Ohio for introducing this legislation, and I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3175.

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 am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 3175, legislation naming a postal facility located at 2650 Cleveland Avenue, NW, in Canton, Ohio, after Richard D. Watkins.

H.R. 3175, introduced by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) on September 24, 2003, was unanimously approved by our committee on October 8, 2003. The measure has met the Committee on Government Reform policy and has the support and cosponsorship of the entire Ohio delegation.

Mr. Watkins, a lifelong resident of Canton, was born in 1930. He attended local schools and after college served in the United States Marine Corps. After serving his country, he returned to Canton and began an impressive career in public service. Richard Watkins was elected to the Canton City Council for six terms and served two terms as Stark County Commissioner. He was elected mayor in November of 1991 and reelected in 1995 and 1999.

In addition to public service, Richard Watkins was dedicated to a host of community service projects. He worked with the Boy Scouts, serving on their advisory board. He was a member of the National League of Cities, Urban Policy Committee, president of the Belle Stone Elementary School PTA and formed the Canton Community Clinic, a free health care facility which provides medical and dental care to thousands of people in need.