

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.

Mr. Watkins has also been very involved in local transportation and infrastructure projects and economic development.

I commend my colleagues for seeking to honor the accomplishments of Richard D. Watkins by naming a postal facility in his hometown of Canton, Ohio, and I urge swift passage of H.R. 3175.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), the sponsor of H.R. 3175.

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

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the time.

Richard Watkins has left a great legacy of public service in our community, public service that had many dimensions, as was outlined by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS). I think that he deserves a lot of credit for the great work that he has done in our community, and this would be a fitting tribute to his career.

He is completing 12 years as mayor of what we know as the Hall of Fame city. Canton, Ohio, has the Football Hall of Fame, and in that capacity he accomplished many things that are beneficial to people.

Mr. Watkins has always been sensitive to the type of leadership that cares about people. I think perhaps the best example were his efforts to establish the Canton Community Clinic. This is a free health care facility. It has been in operation since 1994, and it has served over 35,000 people in that time. This is a beacon light of help to many people who otherwise would not have access to health services.

In addition, he developed what is known as Cornerstone Square. This is a social services campus, kind of a "one-stop" for people that need help. The Ohio Bureau of Workmens' Compensation is there, the Industrial Commission of Ohio and the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services. So those that need assistance in these areas can go there and find help, and I think his leadership in getting that accomplished was great. And it is so important because it has not only provided these services in a central place, but it also provided a facility in part of the city that needed rehabilitation.

He has worked on a number of things in the revitalization of downtown Canton. Big cities have a challenge these days, and Mayor Watkins has addressed that challenge and provided a worthwhile legacy for those that he represents. The aesthetic appeal of downtown Canton has been immeasurably enhanced by his actions as the mayor, and this would be a fitting tribute to an individual who has served the public well, who has provided a legacy for others to benefit and also has provided leadership that will inspire others to public service.

He was also, as has been mentioned before, a member of the Marine Corps, and I know for some Members that is a very substantial endorsement, and so I would urge the Members to support this legislation and give this fitting honor of naming the Cleveland Ave. Post Office, city of Canton, Ohio, for the retiring mayor of Canton, Ohio, Richard D. Watkins.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I commend the gentleman from Ohio for working on such a meaningful piece of legislation.

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. 3175.

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.

#### BEN R. GEROW POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3234) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Chestnut Street in Liberty, New York, as the "Ben R. Gerow Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3234

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

#### SECTION 1. BEN R. GEROW POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Chestnut Street in Liberty, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Ben R. Gerow 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 Ben R. Gerow 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, H.R. 3234, introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) designates this U.S. Postal Service facility in Liberty, New York, as the Ben R. Gerow Post Office Building.

□ 1545

All members of the New York State delegation have signed onto this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Ben Gerow spent his entire life living, working, and serving in the town of Liberty in the Catskill Mountains of southeastern New York State. Mr. Gerow was a respected State assemblyman, sheriff, firefighter, and businessman.

Ben Gerow made a comfortable living for 30 years as owner and operator of his own automobile service station. He retired from his business at age 50 and entered the race for sheriff of Sullivan County, which he won. Three years later, he won another election, this time to a seat in the New York State Assembly. After serving a 1-year term in the legislature, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt selected him to be postmaster of the post office in Liberty, New York, where he served for 12 years.

Ben Gerow passed away in 1961 at the age of 81. Passage of this meaningful bill will fittingly rename the post office in Liberty after Ben Gerow, the very post office at which he served as postmaster. Mr. Speaker, for all these reasons, I congratulate the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) for his efforts in shepherding H.R. 3234 to the floor, and I commend him for honoring Ben Gerow.

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

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

As a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join the gentlewoman from Virginia in rising in support of H.R. 3234, legislation naming the postal facility located at 14 Chestnut Street in Liberty, New York, after Ben Gerow.

H.R. 3234 was introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) on October 2, 2003. The bill has met the Committee on Government Reform's policy and has the support and cosponsorship of the entire New York delegation.

A lifelong resident of Liberty, New York, Ben Gerow was a successful businessman and politician. He owned a garage, operated a Cadillac dealership and tire business, and was a firefighter. He later served as county sheriff and in the New York State Assembly. In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Mr. Gerow postmaster of the Liberty post office.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY), for seeking to recognize the legacy of Postmaster Ben Gerow by naming the Liberty post office in his honor. It is interesting to note that