

War has left the south shattered. Most of the young warriors queuing behind their chosen candidates have known nothing else. There is no electricity or running water in the south, an area the size of France and Germany combined, and precious few schools, either. Southern children used to join either the rebels or government-backed militias. They grew up knowing how to march long distances on empty stomachs, but not how to read.

Peace, if it lasts, will offer southerners a chance to grow less poor. In one village, your correspondent saw a group of SPLA soldiers melting bullets to fashion spearheads for hunting gazelles. The same men were baffled, however, by a consignment of ploughshares, kindly donated by a western aid agency. Unsure what these strange objects were for, they beat them down to make stools.

Elsewhere, workers can be seen hacking through thorny scrub. They are clearing a path for a road, heading for a large rock in the wilderness known as Ramciel, or "the place where the rhinos meet". More accurately, it should be "where rhinos used to meet", as they were poached out of existence some time ago. It is here that the SPLA is thinking of building the south's principal city. Charles Deng, the assistant foreman, has big dreams for the place. "First we will finish the road," he says. "Then we will build skyscrapers and ponds, better than London or maybe even as good as Nairobi."

Not everyone welcomes progress. An SPLA commander in nearby Yirol murmured into his beer that he hoped the capital would be built elsewhere. "If they build it here then they will also build schools and our girls will be sent to those schools," he said. "You know what the means? Their bride price will fall. My daughters will be worthless to me."

THE END OF THE WAR, OR OF SUDAN?

A formal deal ending the war is expected in the next few weeks, possibly sooner. Since President George Bush is widely seen as the architect of peace, he is perhaps more popular in southern Sudan than anywhere else on earth. At the Rumbek sub-chief's election one young warrior called Thuapon leaps frenetically in the air, proudly waving a white Barbie-doll in a pink dress. "This is a new wife for President Bush. May God grant him many fertile women with firm bodies and an election victory without problems in Florida."

The main outstanding issue concerns the religious status of Khartoum. The government wants it to remain under sharia (Islamic law); the SPLA does not. Some fudge is surely possible. Observers are confident that a deal will be signed. "If Khartoum were to renege at this point, it would signal that this whole process was a charade from the beginning," says John Prendergast of the International Crisis Group, a campaigning think-tank.

The difficulty will lie in how the deal is implemented. Unsurprisingly, southerners do not trust the government. "They just want time to re-arm," says James Thucdong, an aspiring teacher in Rumbek. "We know this is just a peace of one or two years. They will never let us become independent." Mr. Thucdong could well be right. There is no provision yet for what will happen to revenues from Sudan's oilfields, which lie mostly in the south, should voters choose secession.

The two sides are unwilling to discuss this issue, but Khartoum would presumably never let the south go if that meant losing the petrodollars, too. "When preparations begin for the independence referendum, we are going to see major meddling by elements in Khartoum, aimed at creating chaos in the south and delaying [the] plebiscite," predicts Mr. Prendergast.

Another worry is that southerners are squabblesome. During the war, they spent as much time fighting each other as the government. Mr. Garang may still be the south's key leader, but his support for a united Sudan will irk secessionists, who are probably a majority in the south. Other ethnic groups resent the politically dominant Dinka people, and even the Dinka are divided.

Once a peace deal is signed, many of the 4m southerners living in squatter camps around the main cities of the north will probably decide to pick their way through minefields and make the long journey home. Tension over scarce natural resources seems likely. As if to confound the optimists, there has been a serious outbreak of fighting in the ancient Shilluk kingdom since March. At least 70,000 people have been driven from their homes after battles between militias loyal to Khartoum and the SPLA. As usual in Sudan, most of the casualties were civilians.

MANY VOICES, MANY FEARS

In Khartoum, the mood is apprehensive. The political elite is genuinely alarmed at what capitulation to southern demands might encourage. Says Ghazi Attabani, a former presidential adviser: "If the south were to secede, it would be catastrophic both for Sudan and for Africa. Secession would not be peaceful. Internal differences in the south would cause rifts which would make Rwanda seem like a picnic."

Because of stringent censorship and the physical difficulty of visiting Sudan's more troubled areas, ordinary northerners have only a rough idea of what is going on in their own country. Some are optimistic. "Of course the people can live together," says Ahmed Omar Othman, a shopkeeper. "Just look around Khartoum, we do already. Here, you will find a church next to a mosque—surely that [proves it]? The real problem is whether the politicians can work together."

The record of Sudanese politicians in this area is not good. Their preferred technique for holding this huge and multifarious country together—barbaric force—has been shown not to work. In Darfur, as Mr. Attabani admits, "There is no military solution." Arming gangsters such as the Janjaweed is easy; reining them in again may prove much harder. Says Sharif Harir, chief negotiator for the SLA rebels: "Even if Khartoum had the will to stop them, it probably doesn't have the power."

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 403.

Sudan, geographically the largest country in Africa, has been ravaged by civil war for four decades. An estimated two million people have died over the past two decades due to war-related causes and famine, and millions have been displaced from their homes. According to the United Nations, an estimated three million people are in need of emergency food aid. Recently, violence has escalated in the Darfur region of the Western Sudan, where government-sponsored militias have been ruthlessly targeting various ethnic groups. Approximately one million civilians have been forced to flee their homes and are now either internally displaced or seeking refuge in neighboring Chad.

Sudanese government forces have overseen and directly participated in massacres, summary executions of civilians, burning of towns and villages, and the forcible depopulation of wide swathes of land long inhabited by the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa ethnic groups.

For months, the Sudanese government has restricted international media access to Darfur

and has limited reporting about the conflict in the national press. Recently, the government has allowed minimal access to the region for international humanitarian agencies but has still failed to provide the necessary protection and assistance to prevent a full-blown humanitarian crisis.

There can be no doubt about the Sudanese government's culpability in crimes against humanity in Darfur. With this resolution, Congress demands that the Sudanese government take immediate steps to reverse ethnic cleansing in Darfur before the situation there worsens and engulfs the entire region in conflict.

The gentleman from Virginia, Mr. WOLF, should be commended for keeping the events in Sudan on Congress' agenda and I urge Members to support his resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 403, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 2432, PAPERWORK AND REGULATORY IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be permitted to file a supplemental report to accompany H.R. 2432, the Paperwork and Regulatory Improvement Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

OSCAR SCOTT WOODY POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3740) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 223 South Main Street in Roxboro, North Carolina, as the "Oscar Scott Woody Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3740

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

SECTION 1. OSCAR SCOTT WOODY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 223

South Main Street in Roxboro, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the "Oscar Scott Woody 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 Oscar Scott Woody Post Office Building.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3740.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Government Reform, the House committee that has oversight responsibilities to the U.S. Postal Service, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 3740. This post office designation act honors Oscar Scott Woody, one of the postal service's little known heroes.

This legislation has been co-sponsored by the entire North Carolina congressional delegation.

Mr. Speaker, Oscar Scott Woody was among the 1,522 victims of the Titanic sinking in the early morning hours of April 15, 1912. Woody was a clerk of the U.S. Post Office Department, who lived in Clifton Springs, Virginia. He worked 15 years as a railroad mail clerk before joining the Postal Sea Service in 1910. Two years later, Woody was selected as one of five postal clerks to serve aboard the grand Titanic during its heavily anticipated maiden voyage.

While his invitation aboard the Titanic's ill-fated journey was professional in nature, he found time to celebrate his 44th birthday with his postal clerk colleagues on the night of April 14, 1912. That night, when the ship infamously crashed into an iceberg in the North Atlantic Ocean, Woody fled his party to salvage as much of the ship's mail as he could. Survivors of the Titanic's sinking reportedly last saw him desperately bagging up the mail in the ship's flooding post office.

Mr. Speaker, Oscar Scott Woody was born April 15, 1868 in Roxboro, North Carolina. I support this measure that names a post office after him in his hometown.

□ 1615

I want to recognize my esteemed colleague from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER) for his work on H.R. 3740.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 3740, legislation naming a postal facility in Roxboro, North Carolina, after Oscar Scott Woody. This measure, which was introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER) on January 28, 2004, and unanimously reported by our committee on May 6, 2004, enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the North Carolina delegation.

Oscar Scott Woody was born on April 18, 1868, and lived in Fairfax County, Virginia. For 15 years, Mr. Woody worked as a railroad mail postal clerk, working the train route between Washington, D.C., and Greensboro, North Carolina.

In 1910, he was selected to serve with the Postal Sea Service. Two years later, Oscar was on the Titanic, serving with four other postal clerks.

According to news reports, Oscar Scott Woody was celebrating his 44th birthday aboard the great ship, the Titanic, when it began to sink. Survivors reported seeing Oscar and the other postal sea clerks trying to save the mail in the ship's post office.

Mr. Woody's body was later recovered, along with keys to the ship's mailboxes and "facing slips" which indicated the destination of the mail sack.

Mr. Speaker, once again we are witness to the hard work and dedication of postal employees, even in the face of death and disaster.

I commend my colleague for honoring postal sea clerk Oscar Scott Woody, and although the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER) was unable to be here today, I know that he would be proud to see the passage of this bill, which names a postal facility after Mr. Woody.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that I have any other requests for time and urge its passage.

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of this legislation to designate the Roxboro, NC Postal Service facility as the Oscar Scott Woody Post Office.

Oscar Scott Woody, a native of Roxboro, North Carolina, was a sea post clerk aboard the Titanic. Woody worked 15 years as a railroad mail clerk, spending most of the time on trains running between Washington and Greensboro, North Carolina. He was selected in 1910 to join the sea post service.

The Titanic was not only the largest and most luxurious ocean liner of her time, she was also a Royal Mail Steamer. With five sea post clerks, the Titanic set sail for New York with over six million pieces of mail on board. The clerks worked throughout the voyage, sorting mail in the ship's state-of-the-art mailroom.

Sea post clerks were highly skilled and respected postal workers who sorted, canceled, and re-distributed the mail in transit. Regarded as the best of the best, these men typically sorted over 60,000 letters a day, making few, if any, errors in the process. Their hard work and efficiency allowed the mail to be delivered

immediately or forwarded directly to other destinations at the end of a voyage.

Mail was considered precious cargo and sea post clerks were expected to protect it at any cost.

On the evening of April 14, 1912, the sea post clerks took a break to celebrate Mr. Woody's forty-fourth birthday. During their celebration, the Titanic hit an iceberg. They returned to find the mail storage room, located in the forward hold that the iceberg had breached, flooding with water. The clerks desperately tried to save 200 sacks of registered mail by dragging them to the upper decks. Oscar Scott Woody was last seen alive at work, sloshing through the waist high freezing water to save the mail.

None of the mail clerks survived. Oscar Scott Woody's body was recovered a week later and buried at sea.

An exhibit at the Person County Museum of History in North Carolina notes Oscar Scott Woody's place in history. Governor Mike Easley proclaimed November 24, 2003 as "Oscar Scott Woody Day" in North Carolina.

Recognition of Woody's heroic efforts is long overdue. It is certainly fitting to name a North Carolina Post Office after a North Carolinian who gave his life upholding his duties to the U.S. Postal Service. Not only does this legislation recognize a postal hero, it serves as a recognition of the contributions made by postal workers and sea post clerks throughout our nation's history.

Mr. Woody certainly displayed the qualities with which North Carolinians take pride. This account was published by the Roxboro Courier on April 24, 1912:

"Mr. Woody stuck by his post and went down with hundreds of brave men, who scorned to take the places by the law of the sea and of Tar Heel chivalry [that] went to women first . . . More than one North Carolinian today, when it was learned that the dead mail-clerk hailed from down home, expressed their satisfaction that North Carolina courage had not been found wanting in that fearful test."

On May 1, 1912, an article about Mr. Woody in the same paper was published under the headline, "Died like a North Carolinian."

Loyal to the last, Mr. Woody was a true Tar Heel. He stuck by his post like his heels were covered in tar and did his job on that frightful night, choosing duty over his life. On his birthday, he never wavered from his duty, and for that all Tar Heels take pride.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in honoring a man who truly gave his life for his work by naming the Roxboro postal facility the Oscar Scott Woody Post Office.

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 3740, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3740.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

BOBBY MARSHALL GENTRY POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4176) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 West Elwood Avenue in Raeford, North Carolina, as the "Bobby Marshall Gentry Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4176

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

SECTION 1. BOBBY MARSHALL GENTRY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 West Elwood Avenue in Raeford, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the "Bobby Marshall Gentry 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 Bobby Marshall Gentry Post Office Building.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4176, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4176 designates the U.S. Postal Service facility located at 122 West Elwood Avenue in Raeford, North Carolina, as the "Bobby Marshall Gentry Post Office Building." Like H.R. 3740, this bill enjoys the cosponsorship of the entire North Carolina congressional delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my distinguished colleague and friend from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) for introducing H.R. 4176.

Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES).

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) and my friend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for helping participate today.

I rise today urging my colleagues to support H.R. 4176, legislation that would name the main post office in Raeford, North Carolina, in honor of their long-time mayor and my good friend, Bobby Marshall Gentry. Many qualities Bobby Marshall Gentry had. The old saying is "They also serve who only stand and wait." Let me tell my colleagues for sure, Bobby Marshall Gentry never stood and never waited. He moved forward for his town, for his church, for his family, for his children.

Mr. Gentry was elected to the Raeford City Council in February of 1977 and proceeded to serve the city of Raeford, North Carolina, faithfully for 26 years. In March of 1990, Bob was appointed to the post of mayor after the death of then current mayor, J.K. McNeill. Bob was elected in his own right as Raeford's mayor in 1993 and re-elected in 1997 and 2001. He served until his untimely death on October 29 of 2003. He served his country also as an Army veteran of the Korean War.

It is interesting to look at all the things that Mayor Gentry did, but one of his most proud accomplishments in those 26 years, only one time was there a tax increase. There were numerous tax decreases for which we all admired him.

Like most folks in Hoke County, I was shocked and saddened when I heard the news that Bob had died. Today I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering a great man who I am proud to have called my friend.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Gentry was a popular mayor. Folks in the community appreciated, admired and really liked him a lot. In fact, I do not think it is too much of a stretch to say that the Raeford community loved Mayor Gentry. Once, when asked why he ran for office, Bob replied as if it were just simple common sense, "I enjoyed it so much that I could not resist running again and again."

Bob was known for his ability to not only accomplish good things for Raeford, but he was able to genuinely have a good time serving and accomplishing these many ends.

Raeford, North Carolina, is a small town in my district, but this small-town mayor was a big-time leader who was constantly looking out for the town and the people. He passionately pursued economic development opportunities. Under his leadership, Raeford was put on track for the largest downtown development in Raeford's history. As a long-time and loyal employee of Burlington Mills for 17 years, he also owned his own small business. He was a contributor. He was a giver.

Mayor Gentry was appointed to the Lumber River Council of Governments board of directors in February of 1990. He served as chairman of this group for several terms and was known by his fellow board members as a leader who believed in starting on time, getting your work done and adjourning on time.

Bob greatly admired another great North Carolinian, former United States

Senator Jesse Helms. He once said of Senator Helms, "His integrity is beyond reproach. When he thinks he is right, he will not compromise his position for political acceptance or gain. His morals are of the highest standards."

We were members of different political parties, but his admiration for Senator Helms and his befriending of me and shepherding me through the process showed clearly his focus was always people and not politics.

Mayor Gentry was a hardworking mayor. He left a legacy with his community. His vision for the future and his determination made Raeford a better place to live and work.

Mr. Speaker, in a small city like Raeford, you often see your friends and neighbors at the post office. It is the kind of place where people say hello and get caught up on what is happening around town. It is very fitting then that today the Raeford community joins me in support of naming the Raeford Post Office, a building at the center of the community, in honor of our former mayor Bob Gentry.

To his wife Eleanor, I had the privilege, Mr. Speaker, of attending the celebration of his life, the funeral service for him, and to Eleanor, there is a passage of scripture, "In my Father's House, there are many mansions. I have gone to prepare a place for you." Well, Bob Gentry is in heaven right now making sure that water and sewer are taken care of, that the lights are on, and preparing a place for Eleanor and his family and others.

To Marsha, Gary and Mark, his children; to his five grandchildren, Marshall, Lucas, Katie, Kelly and Liam, their grandfather was a wonderful man. He leaves many memories of a life well-lived, a good and faithful servant who has gone on before, who served in many, many ways.

Honesty, integrity, intense commitment, these are the qualities, among many, that signified our friend, Bobby Marshall Gentry.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and honor my friend, a fine public servant.

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 4176, legislation naming a postal facility in Raeford, North Carolina, after Bobby Marshall Gentry. This measure, which was introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) on April 20, 2004, and unanimously reported by our committee on May 6, enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire North Carolina delegation.

Bobby Gentry, as we have heard, a lifelong resident of Raeford, was a businessman and long-time member of the political establishment in his community. He served on the Raeford City Council for 13 years, from 1977 to 1990,