

VITILAS 'VETO' REID POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4327) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7450 Natural Bridge Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Vitilas 'Veto' Reid Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4327

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

SECTION 1. VITILAS "VETO" REID POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7450 Natural Bridge Road in St. Louis, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Vitilas 'Veto' Reid 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 Vitilas "Veto" Reid Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. 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 the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4327 is a great tribute to the service of one of St. Louis, Missouri's favorite sons. This legislation designates the St. Louis postal facility as the Vitilas "Veto" Reid Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, longtime Postmaster Veto Reid of St. Charles, Missouri, enjoyed a postal career that spanned over 5 decades. He started his career in 1951 as a substitute clerk and ultimately rose to be the postmaster in Godfrey, Illinois, from 1980 until 1983. He then moved to St. Charles, Missouri, where he served as postmaster for 18 years until his retirement in 2001.

Beyond his postal career, Reid is active in his community and sits on the boards of St. Charles County YMCA, the St. Louis branch of the NAACP, the Habitat for Humanity, and Lindenwood University. Veto and his wife, Bessie, reside in St. Charles; and on behalf of my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), I want to congratulate him for this de-

served post office designation. After all, it is highly appropriate to name this postal facility in St. Louis after a great individual and a postal institution in St. Louis like Veto Reid. I commend the gentleman from Missouri for advancing H.R. 4327 to the floor today. I support this meaningful honor of Veto Reid.

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) for her kind words. Hopefully, she will come to St. Louis one day and meet Mr. REID.

Mr. Speaker, I rise as a sponsor of H.R. 4327, a bill to honor Mr. Vitilas "Veto" Reid by permanently designating the Normandy Post Office located at 7450 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, Missouri, the Vitilas "Veto" Reid Post Office.

As we have heard, Veto Reid has had a U.S. Postal Service career that spanned over 50 years. He started his career on August 20, 1951; and it culminated with his retirement as postmaster on September 1, 2001.

His first assignment was "indefinite substitute clerk," which included working in the mail processing and special-delivery sections. After 18 years as a clerk, he received his first management promotion to mail supervisor in December of 1969. That promotion was indeed a significant accomplishment and was a first for an African American. Affectionately known to his family and friends as Veto, he has been throughout his life a man of many firsts. Some of his many accomplishments are as follows:

Superintendent of station and branches in Berkeley, Missouri; delivery program branch supervisor in Chicago, Illinois; officer-in-charge, in Hazelwood, Missouri Post Office; officer-in-charge in St. Charles, Missouri; postmaster of Godfrey, Illinois; postmaster of St. Charles, Missouri.

Veto Reid's outstanding record of accomplishments as a postal service employee was recognized in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on October 21, 2001. He is an honor graduate of the historic Vashon High School located in St. Louis, and attended Stowe Teachers College and the University of Missouri at St. Louis. He is also a trustee and chairman of the board of Prince of Peace Missionary Baptist Church, where he has been a member for more than 65 years.

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He also has long-lasting memberships with the Albert Holman Masonic Lodge, Eureka Consistory, and Medinah Temple representing the Shriners of Eastern, Missouri.

Veto Reid served on the boards of many advisory committees throughout the St. Louis community. In January of 1995 he was appointed President of the Advisory Board of St. Joseph's Hospital SSM, St. Charles, Missouri. In

July of 1999, he was elected President of the Rotary Club of St. Charles, Missouri. In both cases he became the first African American to hold such positions.

Mr. Reid was also the first African American station manager at the South St. Louis City, Chouteau Branch, and he was also the first African American to be appointed station manager at the Godfrey, Illinois, and St. Charles, Missouri post offices.

Vitilas Reid has received many awards, including the First Postmaster's Leadership Award, which was presented at the 1992 National Association of Postmasters of the United States convention in Nashville, Tennessee. In January 2002, he received the State of Missouri Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Award. He was inducted into the historic Vashon High School Hall of Fame in 1990, and was inducted into the St. Louis Gateway Classic Walk of Fame in August of 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure in tribute to a man whose life has meant so much to his co-workers and his community.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4327.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4327.

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.

PERRY B. DURYEA, JR. POST OFFICE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4427) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73 South Euclid Avenue in Montauk, New York, as the "Perry B. Duryea, Jr. Post Office".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4427

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

SECTION 1. PERRY B. DURYEA, JR. POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73 South Euclid Avenue in Montauk, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Perry B. Duryea, Jr. 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 Perry B. Duryea, Jr. Post Office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. 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. 4427.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am proud to support this legislation that designates a U.S. postal facility in Montauk, New York, as the "Perry B. Duryea, Jr. Post Office." Every Member of the New York State delegation has cosponsored this bill. While State cosponsorship is a formality for post office designations to be reported from the Committee on Government Reform, in this case I think it reflects a great deal of the sentiment from my New York colleagues.

Mr. Perry Duryea remains one of the most highly respected Speakers of the New York State Assembly in history. Speaker Duryea represented the people of Long Island with considerable dedication. First elected as a State Assemblyman in 1960, Perry Duryea exhibited extraordinary leadership for nearly two decades in the New York State legislature, spending 12 years as Republican leader. He held the distinguished position of Assembly Speaker from 1969 to 1973, and he served as Minority Leader from 1966 through 1968 and again from 1974 to 1978.

We all deeply regret that Speaker Duryea passed away in January following a car accident near his home in Montauk. I hope this post office designation provides a wonderful reminder of Perry Duryea's legacy as a public servant and as a great American to his friends, his family, and to all New York residents.

I thank the gentleman from New York for his work on H.R. 4427 that honors Perry Duryea. I strongly urge all of the Members of this House to support this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 4427, legislation designating the postal facility in Montauk, New York, after Perry Duryea. This measure which was introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) on May 20, 2004, was unanimously reported by our committee on June 24, 2004. H.R. 4427 enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire New York delegation.

Perry Duryea, a lifelong resident of Montauk, New York, was a political

legend. For 18 years, from 1960 to 1978, Mr. Duryea served as the Republican Assemblyman from the First District. While serving in the State Legislature, Mr. Duryea served as Minority Leader and Speaker of the Assembly.

Mr. Duryea was known for being bipartisan and recognized as a community leader. He worked tirelessly for the people of New York State and Long Island. Sadly, he passed away in January of this year.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague for seeking to honor the legacy of Perry Duryea, and I urge the swift passage of this bill.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker I have no further 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 gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4427.

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.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT POSTHUMOUSLY AWARD THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO HARRY W. COLMERY

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 257) expressing the sense of Congress that the President should posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry W. Colmery.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 257

Whereas the life of Harry W. Colmery of Topeka, Kansas, was marked by service to his country and its citizens;

Whereas Harry Colmery earned a degree in law in 1916 from the University of Pittsburgh and, through his practice of law, contributed to the Nation, notably by successfully arguing two significant cases before the United States Supreme Court, one criminal, the other an environmental legal dispute;

Whereas during World War I, Harry Colmery joined the Army Air Service, serving as a first lieutenant at a time when military aviation was in its infancy;

Whereas after World War I, Harry Colmery actively contributed to the growth of the newly formed American Legion and went on to hold several offices in the Legion and was elected National Commander in 1936;

Whereas in 1943, the United States faced the return from World War II of what was to become an active duty force of 15,000,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines;

Whereas Harry Colmery, recognizing the potential effect of the return of such a large number of veterans to civilian life, spearheaded the efforts of the American Legion to develop legislation seeking to ensure that these Americans who had fought for the democratic ideals of the Nation and to pre-

serve freedom would be able to fully participate in all of the opportunities the Nation provided;

Whereas in December 1943, during an emergency meeting of the American Legion leadership, Harry Colmery crafted the initial draft of the legislation that became the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the GI Bill of Rights;

Whereas the GI Bill of Rights is credited by veterans' service organizations, economists, and historians as the engine that transformed postwar America into a more egalitarian, prosperous, and enlightened Nation poised to lead the world into the 21st century;

Whereas since its enactment, the GI Bill of Rights has provided education or training for approximately 7,800,000 men and women, including 2,200,000 in college, 3,400,000 in other schools, 1,400,000 in vocational education, and 690,000 in farm training and, in addition, 2,100,000 World War II veterans purchased homes through the GI Bill;

Whereas as a result of the benefits available to veterans through the initial GI Bill, the Nation gained over 800,000 professionals as the GI Bill transformed these veterans into 450,000 engineers, 238,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists, 67,000 doctors, and 22,000 dentists;

Whereas President Truman established the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1945 to recognize notable service during war and in 1963, President Kennedy reinstated the medal to honor the achievement of civilians during peacetime;

Whereas pursuant to Executive Order No. 11085, the Medal of Freedom may be awarded to any person who has made an especially meritorious contribution to "(1) the security or national interest of the United States, or (2) world peace, or (3) other significant public or private endeavors"; and

Whereas Harry Colmery, noted for his service in the military, in the legal sector, and on behalf of the Nation's veterans, clearly meets the criteria established for the Presidential Medal of Freedom: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the President should posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry W. Colmery of Topeka, Kansas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. 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. Con. Res. 257.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer my support for House Concurrent Resolution 257. This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that the President should posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry W. Colmery.

Mr. Speaker, countless remarkable Americans have contributed great