

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues today to pay tribute to former President Gerald Ford on the occasion of his 91st birthday and to thank him for his service to our Nation. President Ford assumed the office of President under difficult circumstances and guided us with strength and steadiness that helped us to regain confidence that we had lost in our Nation's most important office.

Looking back on President Ford's life, it is easy to see that he would distinguish himself as a leader. At the University of Michigan, he excelled both at his studies and at football. He received a law degree from Yale University. When duty called, he enlisted in the Navy, where he earned the rank of lieutenant commander during World War II.

Following the war, President Ford returned to his home State of Michigan and was elected to the House of Representatives for his first of 13 terms. An innate ability to lead helped President Ford rise quickly through the ranks of Congress. He was soon assigned to the influential Committee on Appropriations and rose to become the ranking Republican on the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations.

In 1972, Gerald Ford was nominated as Vice President. He became President in 1974, following the resignation of President Richard Nixon. Faced with many challenges when he took office, President Ford worked to repair the damaged relationship between the American people and its government and the image of America with the rest of the world.

Two of his historic accomplishments were bringing an end to the Vietnam War and facilitating improved relations between Egypt and Israel. Improved relations between Israel and Egypt would lead to a peace pact between the two rival nations, an unprecedented step towards peace in the region.

On his inauguration day President Jimmy Carter began his speech by saying, "For myself and for our Nation, I want to thank my predecessor for all he has done to heal our land."

While we all may not agree with all of the decisions President Ford made during his political career, we can all concur that he carried himself with dignity at a time when our Nation needed it most.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank President Ford for his service. I commend the gentleman from Michigan for introducing this resolution.

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who holds a distinguished record of life-long public service to the United States. President Gerald R. Ford, the 38th President of the United States, celebrates his 91st birthday today. Since 1913, President Ford has been a diligent, humble steward of public service to our great country. He is a role model for all of us involved with public office, and I am fortunate to also call him a dear friend and constituent. It is with great pleasure that I con-

gratulate President Ford, and extend best wishes to his family on this day of celebration.

President Ford's public service began in high school, where he achieved the honor of Eagle Scout. He later earned ten battle stars as lieutenant commander in the Navy, served the State of Michigan in Congress for 12 terms, eventually served as House Minority Leader in 1965, and finally, he served our country as the 38th President. As President, he lead America through the weakest economy of the post-World War II period, confronting tough issues as rising levels of both inflation and unemployment.

After completing his term as President, he returned to Rancho Mirage—a region of southern California that I have the privilege of representing. Now, even at the age of 91, he continues to invest time, energy, and experience into improving our community. His investments in the Rancho Mirage region helped to spark unprecedented levels of economic growth that began in 1983 and continue today. His commitments include support for the McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert, the Living Desert and Desert Museum, and the Eisenhower Medical Center and the Betty Ford Center.

In 1997, Ford joined Gen. Colin Powell in Philadelphia for the formation of America's Promise. In my district, he brought the goals of helping young people to fruition by chairing an America's Promise chapter in the Coachella Valley.

President Bill Clinton presented Ford with the Medal of Freedom in 1999, recognizing his role in guiding the nation through the turbulent times of Watergate, the Nixon resignation and the end of the Vietnam war. Also in 1999, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor for, "dedicated public service and outstanding humanitarian contributions."

In my district, President Ford is heralded as a man who consistently puts country over political party. He is a respected and honored leader, who tirelessly and passionately fights for principles of freedom, hope, and justice. On a personal note, President Ford has provided me with advice and inspiration to better serve the people of the 45th District of California.

Ford and his wife, Betty, continue to support numerous local and national charities and service projects. Despite Ford's long list of honors, his humble spirit remains as a shining example to us all. When asked about his and Betty's unrelenting investment of public service, he simply responded: "We're trying to do our full share." After decades of compassionate leadership, President Ford remains a trusted, proven leader, who views giving back to the community as a civic responsibility of all Americans, not just the task of elected officials.

On behalf of my constituents, the people of California, and the people of America, I am pleased to honor a man who has dedicated a lifetime to public service on this very special day. Happy 91st Birthday, President Gerald Ford. You are a continuous inspiration, admired leader, and valued friend.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, happy birthday to a great American, President Gerald R. Ford.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion

offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 702.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SERGEANT FIRST CLASS PAUL RAY SMITH POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4380) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4737 Mile Stretch Drive in Holiday, Florida, as the "Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4380

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

#### SECTION 1. SERGEANT FIRST CLASS PAUL RAY SMITH POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4737 Mile Stretch Drive in Holiday, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith 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 Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith Post Office Building.

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

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

□ 1500

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 (Mr. TERRY). 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. 4380 commemorates the incredible bravery and patriotism of Army Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith. On April 4 of 2003, Sergeant Smith of Holiday, Florida, was tragically killed in action in Operation Iraqi Freedom during a fierce fire fight near Baghdad.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Smith was a member of the Bravo Company, Eleventh Engineer Battalion of the Army's

Third Infantry Division. He enlisted after graduating from high school and served an accomplished 13-year career in the Army. Sergeant Smith served valiantly in Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield, Kosovo, and Bosnia. He earned several military honors, including the Bronze Star as well as the Purple Heart.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Smith leaves behind a wife and two children in Holiday, Florida; and we pray and we hope that this post office designation will always remind them of the bravery and the love of their husband and father, Paul Ray Smith. Our entire Nation owes Sergeant Smith an incredible debt, and that is why I strongly urge the passage of H.R. 4380. I certainly thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for advancing this legislation that honors the courageous Sergeant Paul Ray Smith.

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, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 4380, legislation designating the United States Postal Facility in Holiday, Florida, after Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith. This measure, which was introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) on May 18, 2004, was unanimously reported by our committee on July 8, 2004. The bill enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire Florida delegation.

When Paul Smith graduated in 1989 from Tampa Bay Vocational-Technical High School, he did what a lot of young men and women do: he joined the Army. Sergeant First Class Paul Smith served in the Army's Eleventh Engineer Battalion, Bravo Company from Fort Stewart's Third Infantry Division, Mechanized. His unit was assigned to build a compound for Iraqi prisoners of war near the captured Baghdad Airport. As a combat engineer, Smith was part of a group that built bridges for troops to cross to difficult areas and found and destroyed enemy weapons.

According to news accounts, it was during the early morning of April 4, 2003, when Sergeant First Class Smith and his combat engineers were working on setting up roadblocks on the highway between the old Saddam International Airport and Baghdad. His battalion was attacked after knocking down the gate to a Republican Guard complex. At that point, a small group of American soldiers was confronted with over 100 Iraqi fighters.

Sergeant First Class Smith, after looking after his wounded troops, jumped into a damaged tank and fired upon the Iraqis with 50 caliber bullets for an hour and a half. His unit credits him with killing 30 to 50 of the enemy. When the fighting was over, Sergeant First Class Paul Smith was found shot in the head, the only soldier of his unit to die that day.

For killing the enemy and defending his unit against attack, Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith has received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He has been nominated for the highest military honor: the Medal of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague for seeking to honor Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith in this manner. Sergeant First Class Smith was a loving husband and father, and now a hero. I urge swift passage of this resolution.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) particularly, and the leadership for their cooperation in bringing this bill to the floor as quickly as we have.

I too rise with great honor to support my bill, H.R. 4380, which will name the post office at 4737 Mile Stretch Drive in Holiday, Florida, the Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith Post Office. I cannot think of anything more fitting than to name the only post office in Holiday, Florida, after one of her bravest citizens, Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith. While Paul was many things to many people, he can be remembered best as a distinguished soldier and American hero and a great family man.

Paul was raised in Tampa, Florida, by a single mother who instilled the values of hard work and determination in Paul and his three siblings. Paul would later use these values in battle in Baghdad.

Paul attended the Tampa Vocational-Technical High School in 1989 and joined the U.S. Army following graduation. He served tours of duty in Saudi Arabia during the first Gulf War and during the Bosnia and Kosovo conflicts. Throughout his career, Sergeant Smith distinguished himself as a fine soldier. He was awarded five Army Commendation Medals, six Army Achievement Medals, a Kuwaiti Liberation Medal, a NATO Liberation Medal, two National Defense Service Medals, three Good Conduct Medals, a Sergeant Morales Club for his courageous actions during combat, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

His most valiant action as a soldier occurred on April 4, 2003, outside of Saddam International Airport in Baghdad. Sergeant Smith's unit, the Bravo Company of the Eleventh Engineer Battalion of the Third Infantry, was tasked with securing a prison for Iraqi prisoners of war at the Baghdad Airport, which had just been secured by American forces. Sergeant Smith immediately thought of the grassy courtyard he had seen that was encompassed by a tall stone wall and next to a tower that overlooked it.

He gave the orders to build a prison, not knowing that the tower and surrounding area was still occupied by members of the Iraqi Republican Guard. While Sergeant Smith and his men were working in the POW prison, they spotted members of the Republican Guard nearby. Paul called for a Bradley, which was at a nearby road block, and he prepared his men for engagement. Sergeant Smith took charge and led the effort while they waited for the Bradley, which would bring an intimidating fire force.

Even though Sergeant Smith and his men were outnumbered by more than two to one, they continued to fight back. Paul jumped on an Army vehicle and began firing a 50 caliber machine gun. He fired and reloaded and continued to fire. Sergeant Smith's determination and bravery gave him the strength to lead the fight until he was shot and killed.

Sergeant Paul Smith, Mr. Speaker, never wavered, he never questioned his decisions, and he never gave up. He fought the hard fight, and by doing so he saved the lives of all of his men and the more than 100 American soldiers in the surrounding area. For his efforts, Sergeant Smith has been nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor, the military's highest honor. As my colleagues know, the Medal of Honor is awarded in the name of Congress by the President of the United States. Only some 3,400 men and women who have distinguished themselves, as the famous words state, "at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty," have received the Medal of Honor since its inception in 1861. The last action in which the Medal of Honor was awarded was in 1993 posthumously, to two soldiers who died fighting in Somalia. Sergeant Paul Smith's courage under pressure and his undying honor to protect the men under his guard make him the perfect candidate for the Medal of Honor.

While Sergeant Paul Smith epitomizes the phrase "American hero" and will not be forgotten because of his fearlessness and conviction, he will always be remembered as a devoted husband, a loving father, and a deserving son and brother. Not only did he leave his men in the battlefield that day, but he also left behind his wife, Birgit, and their children, Jessica and David; his mother and stepfather, Donald and Janice Rvirre, and two sisters and a brother. I hope they understand the importance of what Paul did that day and know that America thanks him and his family for the incredible sacrifice he made.

Mr. Speaker, for these many reasons, I believe that naming the Holiday, Florida, post office, which is just miles from where the Smith family now resides, after Paul is just one small way we as Americans can show our appreciation for the most precious sacrifice Paul made for us and generations to come.

Ronald Reagan once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation

away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

Mr. Speaker, may Paul Ray Smith's memory be eternal, and may God bless the Smith family, and may God bless America.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would certainly urge all Members to support H.R. 4380, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS). 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. 4380.

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.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1730

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at 5 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4766, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 710 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. RES. 710

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4766) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropria-

tions. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: Beginning with the colon on page 3, line 25, through "out" on page 4, line 6; section 717; and section 751. Where points of order are waived against part of a paragraph, points of order against a provision in another part of such paragraph may be made only against such provision and not against the entire paragraph. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution may be offered only by a Member designated in the report and only at the appropriate point in the reading of the bill, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to amendment. All points of order against that amendment are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 710 provides for the consideration of H.R. 4766, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act of 2005, under an open rule, as is customary with annual appropriations measures. I am pleased that the normal open amendment process outlined in H. Res. 710 will allow any member to offer an amendment to the bill as long as it complies with the standing rules of the House.

The rule provides 1 hour of debate in the House on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The resolution waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. H. Res. 710 waives points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI, which prohibits unauthorized appropriations or legislative provisions in an appropriations bill, except as specified in the resolution.

H. Res. 710 also provides that the amendment printed in the Committee on Rules report accompanying the resolution may be offered only by a mem-

ber of the subcommittee designated in the report and only at the appropriate point in the reading of the bill, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by a proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to amendment. H. Res. 710 waives all points of order against the amendment printed in the report.

The resolution gives the chair the ability to provide priority in recognition to those members who have preprinted amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This procedure will help the House in considering amendments in a more orderly manner. Finally, H. Res. 710 provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by commending the work product of the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BONILLA). He has done a good job in crafting this funding bill, especially as we face budgetary limitations, and the bill deserves the support of the House today.

With regard to the underlying legislation, I do want to briefly note that this appropriations bill provides for more than \$33 billion in funding. Included in this bill is \$43 million in higher funding levels for food safety and counterterrorism activities. Also included is an increase of \$20 million for BSE, or mad cow disease, detection and prevention activities.

We are also fulfilling the commitments to our food and nutrition programs with an increase in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, the WIC program. This measure also provides an increase in funding for Agricultural Research Service, including full funding to complete construction of the National Centers For Animal Health.

Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for an open amendment process for consideration of the agriculture appropriations bill. I urge my colleagues to support this fair rule.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this rule will allow for the consideration of H.R. 4766, the fiscal year 2005 agriculture appropriations bill. This important bill provides funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, select programs at the Department of Health and Human Services, and other agriculture and nutrition-related programs at various Federal agencies.