

few in Nanuet had any knowledge that he even served in the war until after his death in 1987. His work in the community made Tony a household name in Nanuet. He dedicated much of his time to teaching Sunday school at St. Joseph's of Spring Valley. In 1978, the students of Nanuet High School honored him for his dedication to the school and its pupils in his efforts as head night custodian for over 22 years.

Tony Lombardi is loved and remembered most in Nanuet as a friendly and caring mailman. During his 30-year career, Lombardi estimated that he had walked over 100,000 miles delivering mail. He always greeted everyone with a smile, a handshake and a hug and left a life-long impression on all those who came in contact with him.

The Nanuet Post Office will serve as daily reminder to the community of Mr. Lombardi's contributions to Nanuet.

□ 1445

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). 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. 4618.

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.

GENERAL WILLIAM CAREY LEE POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4556) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1115 South Clinton Avenue in Dunn, North Carolina, as the "General William Carey Lee Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4556

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

SECTION 1. GENERAL WILLIAM CAREY LEE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1115 South Clinton Avenue in Dunn, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the "General William Carey Lee 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 General William Carey Lee Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) 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. 4556, 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 as much time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 4556. This bill designates the U.S. Postal Service facility at 1115 South Clinton Avenue, in Dunn, North Carolina, as the General William Carey Lee Post Office Building.

General William Lee, also known as the Father of the Airborne, was the founder and original Commander of the 101st Airborne Division. This elite paratrooper company was hailed for its incredibly heroic efforts during the D-Day invasion of the Second World War. The 101st Airborne Division is famously portrayed in the television series Band of Brothers.

General Lee enlisted in the Army in 1917 and served during both World War I and World War II. His combat honors include the Distinguished Service Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, and the World War I and World War II Victory Medals. He remains one of America's most decorated military leaders, and since he passed away in 1948, this honor for such an authentic American hero is long overdue. Therefore, I would urge all Members to support the swift passage of this post office designation.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) for his work on H.R. 4556.

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

Ms. WATSON. 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 colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 4556, legislation naming a postal facility in Dunn, North Carolina, after General William Carey Lee. This measure, which was introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) on June 14, 2004, and unanimously reported out by our committee on July 21, 2004, enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the North Carolina delegation.

William Carey Lee was a native of Dunn, North Carolina. He left college to join the United States Army and fought in World War I. He returned home from the war and graduated from North Carolina State University.

After a distinguished Army career, William Carey Lee became Commander of the Provisional Parachute Group and the 502nd and 503rd Parachute Battalions at Fort Benning. His enormous enthusiasm for parachute and glider

troops led him to develop and command the 101st Airborne Division, an elite paratrooper company hailed for its heroic participation in the D-Day invasion.

Although his health would not allow him to be there for the invasion, his men respected and admired him so much that as they jumped from their planes into battle, they yelled his name.

General Lee died in 1948, but he remains a legend. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague for seeking to honor the legacy of General Lee by sponsoring this bill, and I urge its quick passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE), the sponsor of H.R. 4556.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding me the time, and let me thank the committee for reporting out favorably and unanimously this important piece of legislation that, as has been noted, was introduced and has been agreed to by our delegation unanimously. And I urge my colleagues to support this legislation as we name the main post office in Dunn, North Carolina, in honor of General William Carey Lee, as has been noted today, who has been, and it has been said is, the father of the United States Airborne, and that is absolutely correct.

William Carey Lee, as has been noted, was born in Dunn, North Carolina, on March 12, 1895. So he is a native of a previous century. He attended Wake Forest and NC State Universities, but left the latter, NC State, to enroll as a second lieutenant in the United States Army.

After serving 18 months in Europe during the First World War and earning the rank of captain, he returned stateside where he graduated from NC State University and was so enthralled and felt so much for the military services that he went on to United States Officers Candidate School 2 years later, and his enthusiasm led him to make a career out of the military.

His enthusiasm for parachutists and glider troops that he had seen in Germany during World War I led him to develop the Parachute Test Platoon, and he had been doing a lot of work on it. Finally, in 1942, the President, President Roosevelt, assigned as the Provisional Paratroop Group, only a year old, that was then to be led by Lieutenant Colonel Lee, and it was reconstituted as the Airborne Command. Within the year, three parachute regiments were added to the Army's Airborne forces, and the Airborne Command headquarters were relocated to what was then called Camp Fort Bragg, as we know today Fort Bragg, with Brigadier General Lee in command, who had moved up very quickly in the ranks of the military.

In August of 1942, the 82nd and the 101st Airborne Divisions were formed. Major General Lee was put in command of the new 101st Airborne, and

they, of course, at that point were stationed at Fort Bragg. After a year of rigorous training, General Lee and his men departed for England.

In 1944, General Lee suffered a heart attack that forced him to step down as the commanding officer of the 101st Airborne Division, just as that division was making its final preparations for the invasion in Normandy, of which the General had been a major planner with General Eisenhower and others. As a tribute to their former commander, each of the men, as my colleagues heard this evening, of the 101st Airborne Division yelled "Bill Lee" as they jumped from the plane into the dark into combat.

The men of the 101st who had been under General Lee's command have since been immortalized in a best-selling book by the historian Stephen Ambrose and in the miniseries *Band of Brothers*. They were an elite rifle company that parachuted into France on D-Day, that fought in the Battle of the Bulge. They captured Hitler's Eagle's Nest, and they were also a unit that suffered 150 percent casualties and whose lives have become legendary. One could say how could a company, how could a division suffer 150 percent casualties? Easy. As one was lost, others joined the group.

Mr. Speaker, as the Nation pauses this year to honor the World War II veterans and to mark the 60th anniversary of D-Day, it is appropriate that we honor General Lee, a Dunn, North Carolina, native and the father of the United States Airborne. This General from a small town was a big-time leader. He represented the can-do attitudes and the patriotism embodied by the people of Dunn and Harnett County in North Carolina and America.

Today, in Dunn, there is a museum of his homeplace. The effort to turn that home into a museum was led by a member of his staff, Hoover Adams, who was a captain who served under General Lee. That museum is now open to the public and had a lot of memorabilia from World War II and other Airborne divisions around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and today to honor a true American hero, General William Carey Lee.

Ms. WATSON. 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 would urge all Members to support H.R. 4556, 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. 4556.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. 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.

TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4654) to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4654

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

SECTION 1. REDUCTION OF DEBT UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961 AND TITLE I OF THE AGRICULTURAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1954.

Section 806(d) of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431d(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(4) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

"(5) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2006.

"(6) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2007."

SEC. 2. USE OF FUNDS TO CONDUCT PROGRAM AUDITS AND EVALUATIONS.

Section 806 of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431d) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(e) USE OF FUNDS TO CONDUCT PROGRAM AUDITS AND EVALUATIONS.—Of the amounts made available to carry out this part for a fiscal year, \$200,000 is authorized to be made available to carry out audits and evaluations of programs under this part, including personnel costs associated with such audits and evaluations."

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO ALLOW FOR PAYMENTS OF INTEREST AND PRINCIPAL IN LOCAL CURRENCIES.

(a) AUTHORITY UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.—Section 806(c) of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431d(c)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "The following" and inserting "(1) The following";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) In addition to the application of the provisions relating to repayment of principal under section 705 of this Act to the reduction of debt under subsection (a)(1) (in accordance with paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection), repayment of principal on a new obligation established under subsection (b) may be made in the local currency of the beneficiary country and deposited in the Tropical Forest Fund of the country in the same manner as the provisions relating to payment of interest on new obligations under section 706 of this Act."

(b) AUTHORITY UNDER TITLE I OF THE AGRICULTURAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1954.—Section 807(c) of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431e(c)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "The following" and inserting "(1) The following";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) In addition to the application of the provisions relating to repayment of principal under section 605 of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 to the reduction of debt under subsection (a)(1) (in accordance with paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection), repayment of principal on a new obligation established under subsection (b) may be made in the local currency of the beneficiary country and deposited in the Tropical Forest Fund of the country in the same manner as the provisions relating to payment of interest on new obligations under section 606 of such Act."

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 810(a) of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431h(a)) is amended by inserting "and principal" after "interest".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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. 4654, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill reauthorizes the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998, TFCA, through fiscal year 2007. The current authorization for this important program expires at the end of fiscal year 2004. H.R. 4654 authorizes appropriations for debt reduction for eligible countries through fiscal year 2007 at \$20 million in fiscal year 2005, the President's budget request; at \$25 million in fiscal year 2006; and \$30 million in fiscal year 2007.

The bill adds a new section to the underlying statute which authorizes the use of funds for audits and evaluations of this program. In addition, the bill allows for TFCA debt reduction agreements to redirect reduced principal payments for forest conservation activities. Current law allows only the redirection of reduced interest payment into forest conservation funds.

Ensuring fiscal and programmatic accountability requires the ability to contract for independent audits. While it is the intent of H.R. 4654 to maximize the amount of funds going to new TFCA agreements, a modest authorization level is provided as a good management procedure to ensure that some audits be undertaken each year.

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The \$200,000 authorized by the bill to be made available to carry out audits and evaluations of programs is not intended as a limit on expenditures for these important functions.