

of Baghdad on April 11, 2003. He was awarded the Silver Star, and he later received his citizenship posthumously.

Sergeant Tejeda left behind a wife and two young children.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my good friend and colleague for seeking to honor the sacrifice of Marine Staff Sergeant Riayan Tejeda by naming a United States postal facility in his honor. I know that the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) had hoped to be here to make some comments relative to this legislation. Unfortunately, he was unable to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume in concluding.

Mr. Speaker, tonight we rise to recognize another fallen hero, one not a native of the United States, a native of the Dominican Republic, but someone who gave his life in service to this Nation, someone who gave his life so that others may live in freedom.

This is a small token of recognition by the Congress to name this post office in New York after Sergeant Riayan Tejeda, but it is an important recognition of his service. It is also important to recognize that he did love this country and that posthumously he was made a citizen of the United States.

So, on behalf of the New York delegation, on behalf of the sponsor, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), it is my honor to present to the House this resolution naming the Sergeant Riayan Tejeda Post Office again in New York.

I urge passage of this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4046, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 555 West 180th Street in New York, New York, as the 'Sergeant Riayan A. Tejeda Post Office'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EVAN ASA ASHCRAFT POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5147) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23055 Sherman Way in West Hills, California, as the "Evan Asa Ashcraft Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5147

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

SECTION 1. EVAN ASA ASHCRAFT POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23055 Sherman Way in West Hills, California, shall be known and designated as the "Evan Asa Ashcraft 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 Evan Asa Ashcraft Post Office Building.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICA. 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. 5147, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this legislation sponsored by the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN). Upon enactment of H.R. 5147, this post office will forever carry the name of Evan Asa Ashcraft. Evan Asa Ashcraft was an army sergeant with the 101st Airborne Division.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Ashcraft was killed in Iraq on July 24, 2003, when his convoy came under attack from Iraqi militants. Sergeant Ashcraft led a division that took part in the assault in northern Iraq that killed Saddam Hussein's sons Uday and Qusay. Evan was 24 years old. All Americans, and those who knew this young man, have felt a terrible loss.

Evan's family said that the West Hills, California, native had planned to join the Los Angeles Police Department on his scheduled discharge from the Army in what would have been January of 2004. His father-in-law, LAPD Lieutenant Loren Farrell said the following after Evan passed away, and I quote: "He was a good soldier. He would have made a great cop. As for the rest of us, Evan, you are a hero to all of us and you are a hero to your country." Those are the words of Mr. Farrell.

Lieutenant Farrell's poignant words speak for all Members of the House tonight. Evan Ashcraft was a proud American soldier and his toils simultaneously helped to liberate a nation from oppression and defend the world from tyranny. Evan is survived by his loving wife, Ashley.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I urge the pass of this legislation tonight to honor one of our fallen heroes, Evan Ashcraft.

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 Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), in consideration of H.R. 5147, which names the post office in West Hills, California, after Evan Asa Ashcraft.

Sergeant Ashcraft, a native of West Hills, California, joined the U.S. Army in 2000, specifically the 101st Airborne Division, the Screaming Eagles, based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. As a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry of the 101st, Sergeant Ashcraft was deployed to Iraq in March of 2003.

Shortly after his arrival, he rescued two wounded soldiers, saving their lives. Sadly, he lost his life in 2003 after the Humvee he was driving was hit by enemy rockets.

Sergeant Ashcraft was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart. He leaves behind a wife, his parents, a brother, and many other family members. I commend my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member of the Committee on Government Reform, for seeking to honor the sacrifice of Evan Asa Ashcraft by naming a postal facility in his hometown, and I urge swift adoption of this bill.

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to conclude.

Mr. Speaker, tonight we have recognized three heroes who lost their lives in service to this Nation. It is a small token of appreciation that this Congress extends to recognize these heroes. One was not a citizen of this country, a native of the Dominican Republic, who we honored with citizenship after he gave his life in service to this country. Evan Asa Ashcraft is being recognized with H.R. 5147.

Each of these are precious lives and each of these are a great sorrow and loss for their families. We must think and reflect upon all of these heroes, some from my district. And I have attended some of those funerals, consoled some of the loved ones who lost their sons. Tonight we do recognize again three heroes who served this Nation and we wonder about the greatness of this Nation, how men and women can go forth and their families can sacrifice them in causes that sometimes seem remote.

I remember speaking to a high school graduation class in central Florida. A young man in that class went in service to this Nation and was murdered 2 years later by terrorists in Khobar Towers, Brian McVeigh, who I never forget, and many other young men and women who have lost their lives both in combat and by accident in service to this Nation in Iraq.

I think of those who lost their lives to remove a thug and a drug dealer from Panama. I think of those who lost their lives in Europe and Kosovo, in that region of the world, to restore stability. And I think how great these American heroes are that not only allow us to live in freedom, with liberty and a system of justice, but to let others have that potential across the globe.

Sometimes it succeeds and sometimes it does not, but they have given their full measure and their families have given their loved ones so that others may have even the potential of enjoying the freedoms that we Americans take for granted.

So tonight we have honored three American heroes, and, finally tonight I ask the House to pass H.R. 5147 and name a post office building in honor of Evan Asa Ashcraft.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of a young man, Evan Asa Ashcraft, whose life was cut short serving our nation in Iraq. H.R. 5147, which has been cosponsored by the entire California delegation, would name the post office located at 23055 Sherman Way in West Hills, California the "Evan Asa Ashcraft Post Office."

Evan Ashcraft was smart, talented, and energetic. He represented the very best of American values. From an early age, he excelled in school, first at Welby Way Gifted Magnet School in West Hills, then at Nobel Middle School Magnet in Northridge and El Camino Real High School in Woodland Hills.

Evan was devoted to his family—his wife, Ashley, his mother, Jane, his father, Asa, his younger brother, Drew, his stepmother, Beverly, and his two step sisters, Felicia and Theresa.

By all accounts, Evan was extremely dedicated. Anything he put his mind to, he accomplished in grand fashion, and his service in the military was no exception. He enlisted in the Army at the age of 20, and it did not take long for his superior officers to recognize that he was a gifted soldier. Midway through his basic training, Evan was made a team leader.

Evan enjoyed his time with the 101st Airborne division. As was often the case in his life, however, he sought a greater challenge and volunteered for duty with the elite Army Rangers. Unfortunately, he was injured during training and returned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry of the 101st.

On March 1, 2003, Evan was deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He saw action quickly, participating in the liberation of Baghdad International Airport and the mission that found two of Saddam Hussein's sons, Uday and Usay.

A month later, the Humvee Evan was riding in hit a land mine and came under enemy fire. Both soldiers accompanying Evan were badly wounded and in desperate need of medical attention. Showing no regard for his own safety, Evan risked his life to pull the two men to safety. According to others on hand that day, were it not for Evan's quick and decisive action, both men would have died.

One of the men Evan saved that day, Sergeant Arcebuze, said, "Evan was always there for his men. He was a natural born leader."

Like so many soldiers in Iraq, Evan had big dreams for his life after the war. He planned

to move back to California with his wife, Ashley, start a family, and join the Los Angeles police force. His reason for doing so was simple according to Ashley: "He was a person who really wanted to help other people, to protect them."

Evan was not able to realize his dreams. He was killed with two other soldiers on July 24, 2003, when his Humvee was attacked during a reconnaissance mission near Mosul.

To the people who knew him, Evan represented hope for America's future. After he died, his mother wrote, "This loss is not just mine, it's the world's loss . . . Evan will always be with us in spirit. He still lives, and will continue to live, in all of us." Evan was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery, and was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the rank of Sergeant.

By naming a post office in Evan's honor in his hometown of West Hills, his community and a grateful nation will always be reminded of the life, the contributions, and the ultimate sacrifice of this extraordinary young man.

I urge unanimous support for H.R. 5147.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5147.

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged message from the Senate:

SEPTEMBER 14, 2004.

Ordered, That the Secretary be directed to request the return to the Senate (S. 2261) entitled "An Act to expand certain preferential trade treatment for Haiti.", in compliance with a request of the Senate for the return thereof.

Attest:

EMILY J. REYNOLDS,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the request of the Senate is agreed to, and S. 2261 will be returned to the Senate.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for special order speeches without prejudice to the resumption of legislative business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Two weeks ago, this House stood idly as the federal ban on assault weapons expired. The House ignored two-thirds of the public, over half of gun-owners, and nearly every law enforcement organization in America in favor of the NRA's leadership's extreme agenda against common sense.

Fortunately, I live in a state that enforces its own assault weapons ban. While the state ban is not as effective a tool as the federal ban was to keep personal weapons of mass destruction out of the hand of criminals and terrorists, it does make it more difficult for them to acquire assault weapons.

However, this week the House leadership, which pretends to be a friend of the sovereignty of state and local governments, will allow a vote on a bill keeping popularly elected officials from banning assault weapons and other guns from their jurisdictions.

This week the House will vote on legislation introduced by a member from Indiana ending the ban on firearms in the District of Columbia. The popularly elected Mayor, City Council, and U.S. Delegate to the House all oppose ending the ban. Federal courts have upheld the constitutionality of the DC ban. In fact, the only support for ending the DC gun ban comes from politicians that do not represent the District.

The District will go from having the toughest gun laws in America, to becoming the subject of a twisted social experiment brought to us by the NRA. Those listed on terrorist watch lists prohibited from boarding planes at Reagan National Airport will be able to purchase a handgun, AK-47, or TEC-9 only blocks away from the White House or Capitol Building. Just today, I received a letter from the House Sergeant at Arms detailing the new security recommendations put in place to keep our offices safe. Passage of this legislation cannot be viewed as anything other than counterproductive to these efforts.

Proponents of this legislation say the DC ban has not been effective, citing the District's crime rates, which are not unlike many other large urban communities in the United States. However, the homicide rate in the District is at an all time low, thanks to the Metropolitan Police Department's efforts to get guns off the streets. The DC ban has been a valuable tool in these efforts, but once again House leadership refuses to listen to those most effected by the ban's end.

Granted, the DC gun ban's effectiveness has been hampered by the District's proximity to gun dealers in Virginia and Maryland, but that is no excuse to make it easier for criminals and terrorists to purchase guns in DC.

And while the House leadership's grasp of basic economic principles has been questionable throughout the 108th Congress, one must acknowledge that once the supply of guns is increased, the prices of these weapons will decrease.

Thanks to this legislation, gang members who could only afford to purchase one gun will most likely be able to get two thanks to increased supply and lower prices.

It is only a matter of time before the first crimes are committed with a gun purchased legally in our nation's capital. When that time occurs, the House Leadership must be prepared to explain to the victims of these crimes