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House of Representatives

LIEUTENANT GENERAL JAMES V. EDMUNDSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4847) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 560 Bay Isles Road in Longboat Key, Florida, as the "Lieutenant General James V. Edmundson Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4847

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

SECTION 1. LIEUTENANT GENERAL JAMES V. EDMUNDSON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 560 Bay Isles Road in Longboat Key, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Lieutenant General James V. Edmundson 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 Lieutenant General James V. Edmundson Post Office Building.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. 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. 4847, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4847, a bill that designates the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 560 Bay Isles Road, in Longboat Key, Florida, as the Lieutenant General James V. Edmundson Post Office Building.

□ 1730

All Members of the Florida congressional delegation have cosponsored this legislation, and I am pleased to join with them today in urging the passage of this bill.

Lieutenant General James Valentine Edmundson was an American hero and veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. General Edmundson flew more than 10,000 hours, including 107 combat missions during World War II. In 1973, after 35 years of highly distinguished service in the United States Air Force, General Edmundson retired as Deputy Commander in Chief of the U.S. Readiness Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. General Edmundson's incredible list of distinctions includes the Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 4847, a bill that honors the valor and achievements of Lieutenant General James Valentine Edmundson. I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. HARRIS) for her work on H.R. 4847.

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, I am pleased to join in consideration and urge strong support for H.R. 4847, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 560 Bay Isles Road in Longboat Key, Florida, as the Lieutenant General James V. Edmundson Post Office Building.

Lieutenant Edmundson was an outstanding pilot during the early days of the Army Air Corps and helped lay the groundwork for the United States Air Force to become the entity that it is today. It is fitting and proper that we would name a postal facility in his honor. I urge the passage of the bill.

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. HARRIS).

(Ms. HARRIS asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of legislation that honors a true American hero. Lieutenant General James V. Edmundson served in the United States Army Air Corps and the United States Air Force for nearly 4 decades. During his career of selflessness and service, he flew a total of 181 combat air missions; 107 of these missions occurred during World War II, 32 transpired during the Korean War, and 42 took place in Vietnam.

Surviving Pearl Harbor, General Edmundson fought in the pivotal Pacific theater battles of Midway and Guadalcanal. During his distinguished career, he earned seven Distinguished Flying Crosses, eight air medals, three Legions of Merit, the Silver Star, and the Bronze Star. In his own words, however, the highlight of his career was "flying as lead pilot in the formation of 500 B-29s over Tokyo Bay as the Japanese signed the surrender."

General Edmundson retired from the Air Force in 1973, but his contributions to his community and to his Nation never ceased. Settling in southwest Florida in the town of Longboat Key, he served as mayor, vice mayor and town commissioner. Moreover, General Edmundson remained active in several community organizations, most notably the Kiwanis Club, which elected to him to its board of directors.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Sadly, General James V. Edmundson passed away on June 19, 2001, at the age of 86. He embodied the adage: "It is not how they died that made them heroes, but how they lived."

Mr. Speaker, in honor of this profile of courage and the values he cherished, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4847, which redesignates the U.S. postal facility located at 560 Bay Isles Road in Longboat Key, Florida, as the Lieutenant General James V. Edmundson Post Office Building.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4847.

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.

BILL MONROE POST OFFICE

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4968) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 McHenry Street in Rosine, Kentucky, as the "Bill Monroe Post Office".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4968

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

SECTION 1. BILL MONROE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 McHenry Street in Rosine, Kentucky, shall be known and designated as the "Bill Monroe 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 Bill Monroe Post Office.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. 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 gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, most Americans know that the heart of bluegrass music country is accordingly located in the Bluegrass State of Kentucky. This bill, H.R. 4968, names this Rosine, Kentucky,

post office after the father of bluegrass music, Bill Monroe. Bill Monroe is credited with almost singlehandedly creating the musical art form of bluegrass. In 1939, Mr. Monroe started a band called the Bluegrass Boys, which became one of the most popular musical groups in the Nation during that era. The highly decorated Monroe was ultimately inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, and he remains a musical legend to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. LEWIS) for sponsoring this honor for Bill Monroe. I support this bill.

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

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

I am pleased to urge support for H.R. 4968, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 McHenry Street in Rosine, Kentucky, as the Bill Monroe Post Office. As we have already heard, Mr. Monroe was an outstanding musician and is known as the father of bluegrass. His music can be heard all over the world. I must confess that I am indeed a fan. I think it is proper that we name a postal facility in his honor.

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. LEWIS), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for allowing me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) for allowing the swift consideration of a bill to honor a proud part of Kentucky's heritage, the founder of bluegrass music, Bill Monroe. This is but a small tribute to the legacy of Mr. Monroe. I along with my Kentucky colleagues in this Chamber am proud to name a post office in the community of Rosine, Kentucky, for him.

The history of bluegrass music begins with Bill Monroe. His influence can be seen extensively in contemporary bluegrass, inspiring new generations of musicians and fans to appreciate his unique style. Today his musical art form is preserved through events like the annual Bluegrass Jamboree in Ohio County that show the fine tradition that makes bluegrass music synonymous with Kentucky.

Mr. DUNCAN. 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 Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4968.

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.

LIEUTENANT JOHN F. FINN POST OFFICE

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5053) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1475 Western Avenue, Suite 45, in Albany, New York, as the "Lieutenant John F. Finn Post Office".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5053

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

SECTION 1. LIEUTENANT JOHN F. FINN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1475 Western Avenue, Suite 45, in Albany, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Lieutenant John F. Finn 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 Lieutenant John F. Finn Post Office.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. 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 gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant John F. Finn, a 12-year veteran of the Albany Police Department, was shot three times while chasing a robbery suspect on December 23, 2003. Lieutenant Finn was immediately admitted to Albany Medical Center, and he remained in critical condition for 7 weeks. He sadly succumbed to his wounds on February 12 of this year, as I said, approximately 7 weeks later. H.R. 5053 remembers the life and service of Lieutenant Finn.

Mr. Speaker, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, an average of 163 law enforcement officers have been killed annually in the line of duty over the last 10 years. Our Nation's police officers make themselves vulnerable every day in working to maintain the peace in American communities. We mourn with the citizens of Albany on this occasion and the House intends for this post office designation to serve as a lasting tribute to Lieutenant John F. Finn's patriotism, courage, sacrifice, and service to this Nation.

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

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