

and create an environment in which new telecommunications technologies could flourish.

This act, known as the Telecommunications Act of 1996, was signed into law by President Clinton. It is widely acknowledged that this legislation encouraged the extraordinary innovation and growth in telecommunications and Internet service.

While serving as the ranking member on the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, Jack was instrumental in overhauling our Nation's oil spill liability laws in the wake of the Exxon Valdez accident in Alaska. He also advocated for the protection of endangered species and wetlands; fisheries and wildlife refuges; promotion of American ports and Merchant Marine and the safety of the cruise ship industry.

Following his retirement from Congress in 1997, Jack opened two companies, Twenty-First Century Group, Inc., a Washington, D.C., based governmental affairs and strategic planning company, and Texana Global, Inc., an international trade corporation headquartered in his hometown of Humble, Texas. Jack also continues to serve as vice president of Rosewood Memorial Park and Funeral Home, which his family has owned and operated since the 1930s.

Mr. Speaker, once again I would like to congratulate Jack on the contributions he has made and strongly encourage my colleagues to support this legislation in recognition of his significant contributions to this country.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. NAPOLITANO).

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, as you have heard, there have been very many accolades directed at Jack Fields, former Member of Congress. I would like to repeat them all, but time is short.

I have got to say that I have met the gentleman. I have heard of his accomplishments. I have been able to work with his staff. And I can tell you that he really, truly is a dedicated public servant. I am very happy to lend my support, and I trust that my colleagues will join us, as this was truly a person dedicated to representing his district and the people of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support passage of the bill, H.R. 4232, that will name the Jack Fields Post Office in the City of Kingwood, Texas.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for his indulgence, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of a friend and former colleague, Jack Fields of Texas. Today the House has designated a post office in Jack's home state of Texas the "Congressman Jack Fields Post Office." On the House Floor this afternoon, we're naming

a post office for a man who always knew how to deliver for his constituents. This is a fitting tribute to a gifted legislator who represented the 8th Congressional District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1980 to 1996.

I was proud to serve with Jack on the Committee on Commerce from 1982 to 1996. In 1995, Jack became the Chairman of the Committee's Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance. As the Subcommittee's Ranking Member, I worked closely with Jack on the first comprehensive reform of the Communications Act of 1934—The Telecommunications Act of 1996—which was designed to encourage competition in all telecommunications-related industries and create an environment in which new telecommunications technologies could thrive. President Clinton signed the bill into law in February 1996.

Jack was a trusted colleague. More importantly, he was, and is, one of my best friends. He was a master legislator and a master basketball player. On the House Floor or on the basketball floor, he was always an MVP. He worked across party lines to move legislation forward that benefited the American people. He has retired from Congress, but his distinguished legacy remains.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker I rise today in support of H.R. 4232, which would designate the U.S. Postal Service located at 4025 Feather Lakes Way in Kingswood, Texas as the "Congressman Jack Fields Post Office."

Congressman Jack Fields was born in Humble, Texas. He received his bachelor of arts and his law degree from Baylor University in Waco, Texas and was admitted to the Texas bar in 1977. He served as a Member of Congress from 1981 to 1997. During his tenure in Congress he served as Chairman of the House Telecommunications Act of 1934, which was passed as the 1996 Telecommunications Act. He was also instrumental in re-writing the National Securities Market Improvement Act of 1996 and the Securities Litigation Reform Act.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here today to pay tribute to a friend and former Colleague, Jack Fields, as I rise in strong support of this Bill. Although I only had the pleasure of serving 1 term with Congressman Fields we developed an immediate and lasting friendship that has only strengthened as time has passed. I count myself fortunate to have served that 1 term with him.

Congressman Fields blessed the 8th congressional district of Texas with 16 years of service through his constant dedication to his constituents and determination to do what was right. He was a role model both in his district, the State of Texas, and here in Congress. He worked tirelessly for his constituents and our great Nation and he was, and is, a truly great American.

I have many fond memories of the two years we worked together, but probably the one most important thing I remember about Congressman Fields was his willingness and ability to cross the aisle. Congressman Fields was a strong Republican, yet that did not prevent him from engaging and working with Democrats on a range of topics. For Congressman Fields there were many issues that were larger and more important than partisanship. Congressman Fields truly was a man of honor and dignity.

In fact, I look back at these days with a sense of nostalgia, when Democrats and Republicans would and could work together to get things done. The most important thing for Congressman Fields was to take every effort to move towards a better America. It wasn't partisanship, or special interests, his goal was to help the 8th congressional district of Texas, the State of Texas, and the United States of America. I truly believe that the 108th Congress would work much better if we had more men and women like Congressman Jack Fields. He had the ability to look beyond partisanship to the real issues that were facing our country and take them on head first.

And so I support this bill with open arms. Congressman Fields is a great friend, a loyal ally, and true gentleman. Supporting this bill is the least we can do to honor the truly excellent and distinguished career of Congressman Jack Fields.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I urge passage of this bill to honor our good friend and colleague, Congressman Jack Fields.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back 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. 4232.

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.

#### IRMA RANGEL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4829) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 East Kleberg in Kingsville, Texas, as the "Irma Rangel Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4829

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

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF IRMA RANGEL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 East Kleberg in Kingsville, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Irma Rangel 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 "Irma Rangel 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. 4829.

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, H.R. 4829 designates the post office in Kingsville, Texas, as the Irma Rangel Post Office Building. I congratulate the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) for garnering the cosponsorship of each Member of the Texas delegation and for advancing the bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, Irma Rangel was the first Mexican-American woman elected to the Texas State House of Representatives. She was a political institution in the State of Texas and very deserving of this honor today.

Irma Rangel sadly lost her valiant struggle against cancer on May 18, 2003. On June 2, 2003, the House unanimously agreed to a resolution that expressed sorrow following Irma Rangel's death. Today's legislation will be a more lasting tribute to Irma Rangel's groundbreaking service, and I support its passage.

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 support of H.R. 4829, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 East Kleberg in Kingsville, Texas, as the Irma Rangel Post Office Building.

Irma Rangel was an outstanding civic, community and political leader who became an institution in her community, and I commend the gentleman from Texas for seeking to honor her in this manner.

I would urge passage of this legislation.

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to serve with Irma in the Texas legislature. They broke the mold with Irma Rangel. She was so knowledgeable and so caring. I sat just a few seats away from her in my freshman year. She was and is in our memories a wonderful legislator.

I was a Republican, and there were times when she could certainly put me in my place. But the fact of the matter is, she had such a great heart for people. She had such a great heart for Texas. She was a tireless worker for people who had no voice and who needed someone to stand up in the halls of Austin and fight for their beliefs.

I am proud to be a supporter of this important bill. I appreciate the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr.

HINOJOSA) and other members of the Texas delegation bringing this very important person to America's attention and naming this Post Office after someone who is so deserving of it. I am glad to be part of this effort.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA).

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and my good friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4829, a bill to designate the U.S. Post Office in Kingsville, Texas, as the Irma Rangel Post Office Building.

First, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman TOM DAVIS), the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), and, of course, my good friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for all their assistance in bringing this bill to the House floor today. I also want to thank all my colleagues in the Texas delegation for their unanimous support of this legislation.

Last year, the people of Texas lost a true Texas legend when State Representative Irma Rangel finally lost her battle with cancer. Irma Rangel was the first Mexican-American woman elected to the Texas House of Representatives, where she served the people of the great State of Texas for 26 years.

During her tenure, she devoted her efforts to increasing the educational attainment of Hispanics, empowering Texas youth with the tools they need to succeed and bring economic development to Texas.

She was proud of her legislation that ensured that all Texas high school seniors who graduated in the top 10 percent of their class will be able to attend any public university in the State of Texas. As a former teacher, she knew that the economy of Texas depends on creating a highly educated, diverse workforce.

□ 1815

Irma was always ready to engage her colleagues not only on the pressing issues of the day, but also on the issues that were forgotten or ignored, but were important to average working families. She was famous for her motto, "will it help or hurt" and used it as a standard for judging legislation.

She was a fighter for her congressional district, and because of her relentless efforts, Texas A&M Kingsville now has a School of Pharmacy, the first such professional school in south Texas.

Irma was also a courageous example of how to live life fully, even with cancer. She survived bouts of breast and ovarian cancer before she finally succumbed to the brain cancer. When she lost all of her hair because of chemotherapy treatments, she proudly wore her bright, colorful hats on the Floor of the Texas House. She was a positive

force in educating women about cancer treatment and prevention. Her fighting spirit, her courage and her passion for educational excellence will truly be missed.

It is very fitting that the U.S. Post Office in her hometown of Kingsville, Texas, should bear her name. Every Member of Congress from Texas endorsed and cosponsored this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4829.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ).

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4829, the legislation to honor State Representative Irma Rangel by naming the Post Office in her name in her beloved hometown of Kingsville, Texas.

Irma Rangel had three careers over the course of her life. She was a teacher first, then a lawyer, then a State legislator. In each one of those roles, Irma was dedicated to helping the poor, improving the Hispanic community, reaching out to everyone, and fighting for justice and equality. I have had the honor not only of calling her a friend but also a colleague in the Texas House.

During my tenure in the Texas legislature, I had the privilege of working with Representative Irma Rangel. As a colleague on the Committee on Higher Education, I saw Irma consistently fight to improve the quality and accessibility of education for not only her constituents but all students. She was a driving force in securing the passage of the 10 Percent Plan, which makes the top 10 percent of students in every high school eligible for admission to any State or college university, in the wake of the devastating Hopwood case.

I would like to just mention that, during this particular case, I had filed that particular legislation, and I was very pleased to have worked directly with her. It was at that point that I got elected to the Congress, and she was able to move forward a piece of legislation that has meant tremendous advantages for both African-Americans and Latinos, in spite of the Hopwood case, and when the administration in Texas went after us on affirmative action.

Her advocacy helped create the School of Pharmacy at the Texas A&M University at Kingsville, the first professional school in south Texas, now named the Irma Rangel School of Pharmacy. We all look forward to the day when the first class of the School of Pharmacy graduates from Texas A&M, Kingsville.

For many young Hispanic women, she was also a trailblazer. She was the first Hispanic woman elected to the Texas legislature and the first woman to act as the chairman of the Mexican-American Legislative Caucus. I would also add, she was extremely responsible, along with a large number of others, but she was right there, because

she was part of the Higher Education Committee in Texas, when we recognized the disparities that existed throughout south Texas, where we had no universities of any professional type, and we fought. We were very pleased with then Governor Ann Richards and others to be able to push forward what she made happen in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and that was the formation of a 4-year institution in Corpus Christi; the formation of a 4-year institution in Brownsville, Texas; the formation of a 4-year institution in Webb County; the expansion of the A&M downtown campus in San Antonio. During her tenure, in her efforts in higher education, she knew that those were the areas that she needed to move on.

She has left a lasting legacy, and this is a tribute that will continue to remind the residents of south Texas of her strength and courage.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no other additional speakers, I urge passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). 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. 4829.

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.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3242

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have the name of the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3242.

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

There was no objection.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5212, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR HURRICANE DISASTERS ASSISTANCE ACT, 2005

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 819 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 819

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5212) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, for additional disaster assistance relating to storm

damage, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; (2) the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by Representative Hensarling of Texas or his designee, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order or demand for division of the question, shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) is recognized for 1 hour.

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

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

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 819 is a modified, closed rule that provides for consideration of H.R. 5212, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, for additional disaster assistance relating to storm damage and for other purposes.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill and provides for 1 hour of debate in the House, equally divided and controlled by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule provides for consideration of the Hensarling amendment which shall be separately debatable for 20 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, this is my inaugural rule, and I want to begin by thanking the Speaker for the honor of serving on this distinguished committee, and what an important rule to begin with, as it impacts the Sunshine State that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) and I are so honored to represent.

Mr. Speaker, on four occasions in a span of 6 weeks, portions of my home State of Florida have been designated disaster areas. Additionally, areas in nine other States have been declared disaster areas due to hurricane-related damage. Between August 13 and September 26, five hurricanes wreaked havoc upon the eastern and Gulf coasts of the United States. For the first time since 1886, a single State has been hit by four hurricanes in one season.

The widespread devastation caused by these natural disasters is breathtaking. Damage was sustained along the entire eastern seaboard from rav-

aging winds in the Florida Keys and the Florida panhandle to tornadoes and mudslides in the Carolinas and severe flooding up the east coast.

The emergency supplemental appropriations bill, H.R. 5212, provides substantial resources for recovery. This rule brings to the Floor legislation to help families and farmers and businesses rebuild in the aftermath of nature's destruction.

The long-range economic effects of these storms will be severe. All facets of the economy were affected due to power outages, crop losses, and wind and water damage. It is difficult to comprehend the impact of these successive storms on Florida's economy. Florida's largest economic engine is tourism. The land of pristine beaches and world-class attractions has seen significant hardship for the tourism industry, while entire communities along the panhandle have been washed away. Businesses, large and small, are suffering from the aftermath of these storms. Many remained closed for weeks at a time while they went without utilities, losing important revenue. Mom-and-pop shops have fewer beachgoers to serve. Families and businesses now face multiple insurance deductibles following the damage of multiple storms that hit the same areas.

Florida's agriculture industry sustained the loss of up to 40 percent or more of its citrus crop for this season, along with the loss of trees that provide future harvests. In addition to citrus, the vegetable, sugar, cattle, timber, dairy, nursery, and other industries suffered severe losses.

Our infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, was utterly destroyed in some areas. Bridges, interstate bridges were washed away, cutting off evacuation routes and isolating communities. Hospitals were forced to close due to damage. Schools were shut down to serve as shelters. In my county alone, 13 days of school have been missed. The school year has essentially begun anew on four separate occasions. Military bases have been closed following extensive damage to hangars, equipment and training areas. Traffic lights lay in the middle of intersections. Daily life came to consist of searching for ice and batteries and helping neighbors wield a chain saw to remove a tree on top of your home, business or vehicle.

President Bush has recommended a total of \$11 billion in assistance to the States that have been affected by these storms. The bill provides for \$6.5 billion for disaster recovery efforts for FEMA, which is in addition to the \$2 billion that was appropriated for FEMA earlier this month. FEMA uses these resources for a variety of disaster relief activities, including direct assistance to impacted individuals and families, debris removal, utility and infrastructure repairs, emergency food and shelter, and mitigation.

Mr. Speaker \$1.1 billion for the Department of Defense; \$929 million for