

As has been mentioned, approximately 35,000 babies are born each year with some variety of a congenital heart defect. Five years ago, my wife Celeste and I had a beautiful baby girl, and we named her Kathryn, and she was one of those 35,000 babies. She was diagnosed shortly after her birth with a complete atrial ventricular septal defect.

It was a normal birth. Afterward, during a regular checkup, our family doctor heard something that almost jumped through his stethoscope. As we later found out, he was holding back his own emotion as he heard this. So that launched us then on a path, a very intense, difficult, 3-month period, until she had her first surgery.

But one of the most encouraging things that happened for us then were other parents who found out we were suffering through this and who took initiative to call us, to extend a hand of friendship. Because when this happens to you, your world spins around 360 degrees. It is very hard to know who to turn to and where to go. So the support network of parents who simply took their own initiative to contact us was very deeply meaningful and helped us through this very difficult time.

Kathryn, as many of your saw this past weekend, is a very vibrant, happy, 5-year-old. She wears a pacemaker, which obviously causes some security difficulties here and there, but, nonetheless, we are grateful to the advances that medicine has given us in the last 30 years to be able to deal successfully with this form of defect.

I am just really thankful that Congress is taking the initiative today to actually propose a Day of Hearts, not only to bring more emphasis to the issue, because it does affect so many families, but to potentially help spur additional research into the potential of finding a cure, or at least helping parents who have to deal with the management of this issue for a lifetime.

Thank you, Dr. Price, for proposing this; thank you to my other colleagues who have cosponsored this; and I urge passage of H.R. 629.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is especially appropriate that today on Valentine's Day, when we celebrate love and affection from the bottom of our hearts, that this House passes a resolution that seeks to provide protection from our hearts being damaged from disease. I urge all Members to support the adoption of H. Res. 629.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 629, supporting the goals and ideals of a Day of Hearts, Congenital Heart Defect Day in order to increase awareness about congenital heart defects. I think it's fitting that on Valentine's Day, we can discuss a resolution that will help protect our hearts.

Heart disease can affect every aspect of your life: your ability to work, your ability to get adequate insurance, your ability to exercise or play sports, and your ability to have children,

not to mention your ability to enjoy your life and live it to the fullest.

Estimates suggest that about 1 million Americans have a congenital heart defect. If time in the hospital and recuperating from heart conditions could be measured in years of life, over 91,000 life years are lost each year in the US due to congenital heart disease. For inpatient surgery alone, charges for care exceed \$2.2 billion every year.

Even our most vulnerable and innocent citizens are not exempt from the risk of heart disease: around 35,000 babies are born with a heart defect each year. Out of 1,000 births, 8 babies will have some form of congenital heart disorder, although for the most part, these are mild. Severe heart disease generally becomes apparent during the first couple of months after birth. Doctors know to watch for certain clues, including when babies are born blue, have very low blood pressure, breathing difficulties, feeding problems, or poor weight gain. In addition, most minor defects are diagnosed on a routine medical check up.

We've made significant improvements in the treatment of congenital heart conditions, from preventive treatment, to surgery, to research, to education and outreach. In the 1960s and 1970s the risk of dying following congenital heart surgery was about 30 percent and today it is around 5 percent.

However, recent statistics show that heart disease is still the No. 1 killer of American women, and heart failure is on the rise in the elderly. This bill is relevant and timely, and a noble effort to bring much needed awareness and crucial outreach to men, women and children across the Nation. Knowledge can make all the difference in quality of life, and a Day of Hearts is the perfect way to start the conversation and spread the word.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). 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. 629.

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.

#### RAYMOND J. SALMON POST OFFICE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4152) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 High Street in Clinton, Massachusetts, as the "Raymond J. Salmon Post Office".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4152

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

#### SECTION 1. RAYMOND J. SALMON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 High Street in Clinton, Massachusetts, shall be known and designated as the "Raymond J. Salmon 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 "Raymond J. Salmon Post Office".

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.

#### 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. 4152.

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 such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4152, offered by the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), would designate the post office building in Clinton, Massachusetts, as the Raymond J. Salmon Post Office.

On April 16, 1923, Raymond J. Salmon was born in the town of Clinton, Massachusetts. In his younger years, Ray served his country as a Technical Sergeant in the U.S. Army in World War II. In 1950, he began his political career by working for Congressman Phillip Philbin of Clinton, Massachusetts, and served as his Chief of Staff until 1970. While working on Capitol Hill, Ray managed to complete law school and be admitted to the bar in 1952.

After several years as a sole practitioner, Ray was appointed the Clerk Magistrate of Clinton District Court in 1976, and he remained in this position until his retirement in 2000.

His service in this capacity did not go unnoticed by his community. He was loved and revered by the citizens of Clinton, and he remained involved in many other community activities. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion, Turner Veterans, the Polish American Veterans, the Hibernian AOH Master of Ceremonies, President of the National Exchange Club, Exalted Ruler of the Clinton Lodge of Elks and President of the Clinton Democratic Town Committee.

It is an honor and privilege to be able to recognize such an unselfish and giving member of the community by passing H.R. 4152 and recognizing the efforts of such a committed individual.

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 Government Reform Committee, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 4152, legislation naming a postal facility in Clinton,

Massachusetts, after Raymond Salmon. This measure, sponsored by Representative JAMES MCGOVERN of Massachusetts, was unanimously reported by our committee on November 16, 2005. H.R. 4152 has the support and cosponsorship of the entire Massachusetts delegation.

Mr. Salmon, a native of Massachusetts, was a graduate of Clinton public schools, Saint Michael's College in Vermont and Suffolk University Law School. He was a congressional staffer who worked for former representative Phillip Philbin from 1950 to 1970. He was a veteran and an attorney seriously and actively involved in many aspects of community life in the neighborhood and community where he lived. He gave a great deal of himself for the benefit of others with consistency and regularity.

I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, to urge the swift passage of this bill.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman TOM DAVIS and Ranking Member HENRY WAXMAN of the House Government Reform Committee for their leadership on moving this important resolution through the committee and to the House floor for its consideration today.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4152, which would designate the United States Postal Facility at 320 High Street in Clinton, Massachusetts as the Raymond J. Salmon Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, by designating this Federal post office today, we honor a great American. Raymond J. Salmon was born on April 16, 1923 in the small town of Clinton, MA. As a young man, Ray responded to the call of duty during World War II and became a member of the United States Army serving as a Technical Sergeant. Returning home from the war, Ray began work for Congressman Phillip Philbin of Clinton, Massachusetts, in 1950, and he remained in public service as the Congressman's Chief of Staff until 1970.

During his time as a Hill staffer, Ray completed law school, was admitted to the bar in 1952 and was a sole practitioner until 1977. While practicing law, Ray was appointed the Clerk Magistrate of Clinton District Court in 1976 and remained loyal to his position until his retirement in 2000. Ray brought honor and an enthusiasm to his position, and everyone in town knew and admired Ray for his character and love of public service. Actively engaged in the community, Ray was a member of many civic groups, including the Knights of Columbus, American Legion, Polish American Veterans, and the Clinton Elks Lodge.

Mr. Speaker, if you ever have the opportunity to travel to the town of Clinton, you will be hard-pressed to find someone who was not fond of Ray. Clearly, his spirit lives on throughout this small, tight-knit community. By designating this facility as the Raymond J. Salmon Post Office, we honor not only this truly great individual, but the community he served and the people who knew him so well.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I urge Members to support the passage of H.R. 4152, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). The ques-

tion is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4152.

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.

#### HOLLY A. CHARETTE POST OFFICE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 989) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 Rolfe Square in Cranston, Rhode Island, shall be known and designated as the "Holly A. Charette Post Office."

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 989

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

#### SECTION 1. HOLLY A. CHARETTE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 Rolfe Square in Cranston, Rhode Island, shall be known and designated as the "Holly A. Charette 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 "Holly A. Charette Post Office".

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.

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#### 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. 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, S. 989, offered by the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island, Senator REED, would designate the post office building in Cranston, Rhode Island, as the Holly A. Charette Post Office.

United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Holly Charette, a Cranston resident, was killed on June 23, 2005, while serving our country in Iraq. Charette served as a mail clerk at the Marine Camp Blue Diamond in Ramadi, which is the headquarters battalion of the Second Marine Division.

Holly Charette was recognized by every soldier who had the pleasure of receiving mail from her, as she always greeted them with a smile and with a

kind word. She was known for her ability to sort through thousands of letters and parcels, identifying each name with a face, never letting down those who relied on her. In fact, Holly Charette was quoted as saying, I never really thought too hard about being a mail person, but it is really an important job and people depend on me.

There are a lot of stresses involved, but it is really worth it at the end of the day. After her service in the military, Charette had planned to apply at the U.S. Postal Service, where she could continue to serve the citizens of the United States. About her future plans, she stated, It will not be the same as being a marine, but at least I am still in uniform.

I would urge all Members to come together and to honor this dedicated young woman in her efforts to serve our country. I thank Senator REED for his diligence in bringing this important measure forward.

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

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

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, last June I had the sad duty of coming to the floor to announce the loss of a brave marine in Iraq, Lance Corporal Holly Ann Charette, a citizen of Cranston, Rhode Island.

Today, I am proud to honor her service as we dedicate a post office in her memory. I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Senator JACK REED, for introducing this measure, as well as the Government Reform Committee for bringing it to the floor today.

After the loss of Holly Charette, I was touched by the memories shared by her neighbors, friends, and family. One common theme that emerged was that Holly's smile and personality cheered all those around her. Those who knew her well spoke of her optimistic outlook on life and her ability to make the most of any situation.

She aimed to help others, and that dedication to service encouraged her to join the Marines. In Iraq, Holly held an administrative job, and her duties included serving as the mail distributor for her camp.

She was exceptionally well suited to that assignment, not only because of her outstanding organizational skills, but also because of her aspirations to one day become a postal worker. Despite the procedures and physical challenges of the position, she always maintained her professionalism and sunny disposition.

She recognized the importance of that task and worked so hard so that she could brighten the days of her fellow marines with the messages of their loved ones back home.

However, Holly's service was not without risk. As one of few women at