

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS SHANE R.
AUSTIN POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3034) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 127 South Elm Street in Gardner, Kansas, as the "Private First Class Shane R. Austin Post Office," and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 3034

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

SECTION 1. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS SHANE R. AUSTIN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 127 South Elm Street in Gardner, Kansas, shall be known and designated as the "Private First Class Shane R. Austin 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 "Private First Class Shane R. Austin Post Office".

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. PFC Shane R. Austin was killed on October 8, 2006, when a grenade struck his tank in Ramadi, Iraq, west of Baghdad. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division in Baumholder, Germany.

Private Austin's grandmother said, "Although the emptiness and numbness is with the entire family, we hold the pride high that Shane was a hero before he left for the military, but now he is everybody's hero. Military was his dream; he intended to make it a career and that he accomplished . . . it was just a short career."

Private Austin served his country with distinction and courage.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative DENNIS MOORE for introducing this legislation and urge the swift passage of this bill.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3034, legislation I have introduced with the rest of the Kansas delegation to rename the Gardner, KS, postal service facility the "Private First Class Shane R. Austin Post Office."

Private First Class Shane Austin grew up in Edgerton, KS, and attended Gardner-Edgerton High School before joining the U.S. Army. PFC Austin was 19 years old when he was killed on October 8, 2006, while serving in the United States Army's First Armored Division, during combat operations in Ramadi, Iraq. For his heroism, and for saving the lives of several fellow soldiers, Shane was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

According to Captain Daniel Costin, Shane was a quiet, unassuming man who worked hard, whether it was cutting grass in rear detachment or conducting maintenance on his tank.

Shane's father Terrance also said that while Shane was a bit on the wild side before leav-

ing for boot camp, when Shane came home after finishing basic training he stood tall, stared you straight in the eye, and had a firm handshake.

On October 8, 2006, Shane courageously sacrificed the most precious thing a person can offer to his country—his life; and our country, the state of Kansas, and the Gardner-Edgerton community owes Shane and his family absolute gratitude for the rights and freedoms that he so heroically fought to protect.

Shane also follows in the path of a long line of brave and courageous individuals from the Gardner-Edgerton area who have given the ultimate sacrifice to protect those same rights and liberties. In fact, soldiers from the area have given their lives in service to their country in the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, and their sacrifice must also be remembered and honored.

So today I am proud to join with my colleagues in remembering these brave individuals, and in offering this remembrance so that our community never forgets the sacrifice that a brave soldier from Kansas made for his country.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BUCK OWENS POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1384) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 118 Minner Street in Bakersfield, California, as the "Buck Owens Post Office," and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 1384

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

SECTION 1. BUCK OWENS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 118 Minner Street in Bakersfield, California, shall be known and designated as the "Buck Owens 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 "Buck Owens Post Office".

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. BUCK OWENS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 118

Minner Avenue in Bakersfield, California, shall be known and designated as the "Buck Owens 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 "Buck Owens Post Office".

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Buck Owens was among the most prolific country hit-makers of the past 40 years and enjoyed a string of chart-toppers, including "Act Naturally", "Together Again", and "I've Got a Tiger by the Tail". He was a major influence on successive generations of musicians.

He was born as Alvis Edgar Owens in Sherman, Texas on August 12, 1929. He died on March 25, 2006 in Bakersfield, California.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative KEVIN MCCARTHY for introducing this legislation and urge the swift passage of this bill.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1384, a bill I introduced to designate the United States Postal Service facility located at 118 Minner Avenue in Bakersfield, California as the "Buck Owens Post Office."

An accomplished, self-taught musician, Alvis Edgar "Buck" Owens, Jr. amassed twenty-one country music hits throughout his career, of which ten were consecutive #1 hits, including "Act Naturally," "My Heart Skips a Beat," and "Streets of Bakersfield." Over his more than 50 years in the music industry, Buck worked with other legendary country musicians including Merle Haggard, who dubbed Buck's band "the Buckaroos," Wanda Jackson, and Dwight Yoakam.

Buck was best known for his signature "freight train" musical sound that combined classic country music with electric guitar, a unique rhythm, and rock and roll and honky-tonk influences, and always played his trademark red, white, and blue guitar. Buck was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Country Music Hall of Fame, both in 1996, for his musical talent and accomplishments. In 1999, Buck received a Grammy Hall of Fame Award for one of his #1 hits, "I've Got a Tiger by the Tail."

In addition to recording hit country music songs, for almost twenty years, Buck could be seen on Hee Haw, an immensely popular country music comedy show. Following Hee Haw and returning to his country music roots, Buck opened Buck Owens' Crystal Palace in 1996, a concert hall in Bakersfield, California, where Buck hosted other bands and performed live for fans up until the night he passed away, on March 25, 2006.

An astute businessman, Buck owned several radio stations, including KKXX-FM, which was under Buck's tenure for more than a decade the #1 rock-and-roll station in Bakersfield. In addition, Buck also owned KUZZ-AM, which he expanded to FM radio, and, up until his death, was and remains the #1 country music station in Bakersfield. Finally, Buck established his own music production company, Buck Owens Enterprises, which produced records by country music artists.

Buck moved to Bakersfield in 1951, and contributed greatly to the country music industry in Bakersfield and around the Nation and amassed a legion of fans, like myself, across the country. H.R. 1384 is a fitting honor and

tribute to this influential and charismatic Californian by designating the post office in his hometown of more than 55 years in his memory.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 118 Minner Avenue in Bakersfield, California, as the 'Buck Owens Post Office'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the 13 Committee on Oversight and Government Reform bills previously considered.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

DARFUR ACCOUNTABILITY AND DIVESTMENT ACT

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 180) to require the identification of companies that conduct business operations in Sudan, to prohibit United States Government contracts with such companies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 180

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) In the 108th Congress, the House of Representatives adopted House Concurrent Resolution 467 on July 22, 2004, by a unanimous vote of 422-0, which—

(A) declares that the atrocities unfolding in the Darfur region of Sudan are genocide;

(B) declares that the Government of Sudan has violated the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

(C) urges the Administration to seriously consider multilateral intervention to stop genocide in Darfur should the United Nations Security Council fail to act; and

(D) calls on the Administration to impose targeted sanctions, including visa bans and the freezing of assets of the Sudanese National Congress and affiliated business and individuals directly responsible for the atrocities in Darfur.

(2) In the 109th Congress, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006, on April 5, 2006, by a vote of 416-3, which—

(A) appeals to the international community, including the United Nations, the European Union, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), to immediately mobilize sufficient political, military, and financial resources to support and expand the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS);

(B) blocks assets and restricts travel of any individual the President determines is responsible for acts of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity in the Darfur region of Sudan; and

(C) offers United States support for the International Criminal Court's efforts to prosecute those responsible for acts of genocide in Darfur.

(3) On September 9, 2004, former Secretary of State Colin Powell stated before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate that genocide was being committed in the Darfur region of Sudan and that the Government of Sudan and the government-supported Janjaweed militias bear responsibility for the genocide.

(4) On September 21, 2004, President George W. Bush affirmed the Secretary of State's finding in an address before the United Nations General Assembly, stating that the world is witnessing terrible suffering and horrible crimes in the Darfur region of Sudan, crimes the Government of the United States has concluded are genocide.

(5) On May 29, 2007, President George W. Bush affirmed that the Government of Sudan is complicit in the bombing, murder, and rape of innocent civilians in Darfur and again declared that these actions rightfully constitute genocide.

(6) Although the Government of the United States currently bans United States companies from conducting business operations in Sudan, millions of Americans are inadvertently supporting the Government of Sudan by investing in foreign companies that conduct business operations in Sudan that disproportionately benefit the Sudanese regime in Khartoum.

(7) Several States and governmental entities, through legislation and other means, have expressed their desire, or are considering measures—

(A) to divest any equity in, or to refuse to provide debt capital to, certain companies that operate in Sudan;

(B) to disassociate themselves and the beneficiaries of their public pension and endowment funds from directly or indirectly supporting the Darfur genocide; and

(C) to prohibit themselves from entering into or renewing contracts for the procurement of goods or services with certain companies that have a direct investment in, or conduct business operations in, Sudan

(8) California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas and Vermont have passed legislation to divest State funds from companies that conduct business operations in Sudan. Massachusetts, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Wisconsin are considering legislation to divest State funds from companies that conduct business operations in Sudan. Arkansas, Connecticut, Maryland, and Ohio have passed non-binding divestment legislation with respect to Sudan.

(9) Denver, Colorado, Los Angeles, California, Miami Beach, Florida, New Haven, Connecticut, Newton, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Providence, Rhode Island, and San Francisco, California have passed legislation mandating divestment of city funds from companies that conduct business operations in Sudan.

(10) American University, Amherst College, Andover Newton Theological School, Boston University, Bowdoin College, Brandeis University, Brown University, Colby College, Columbia University, Connecticut College, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Drew University, Duke University, Emory University, Hampton University, Harvard University, Hendrix College, Howard University, Lee University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Middlebury College, Nazareth College, Northwestern University, Oberlin College, Queen's University, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Regis University, Samford University, Seton Hall, Smith College, Stanford University, Swarthmore College, Trinity College, University of California, University of Colorado, University of Connecticut, University of Denver, University of Illinois, University of Maryland, University of Massachusetts, University of Minnesota, University of Pennsylvania, University of Rochester, University of Southern California, University of Vermont, University of Virginia, University of Washington, University of Wisconsin System, Vassar College, Wellesley College, Wheaton College, Williams College, and Yale University have divested their funds from or placed restrictions on investment of their funds in certain companies that conduct business operations in Sudan.

(11) Divestment has proven effective in similar situations, as in 1986, when State pension funds and university endowments were divested from companies that conducted business operations in South Africa, which was critical to ending apartheid in that country, and by 1994, when the first free elections in South Africa took place, a substantial number of States, counties, cities, universities, and colleges in the United States had adopted partial or total divestment policies.

(12) Economic pressure against the Government of Sudan has been effective in pushing Sudan to cooperate with the United States on counterterrorism efforts and in part in agreeing to negotiations with the Sudan People's Liberation Army of South Sudan which resulted in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005.

(13) Congress acknowledges that divestment should be used sparingly and under extraordinary circumstances. This Act is based on unique circumstances, specifically, the reprehensible and abhorrent genocide occurring in Sudan.

(14) The business operations of companies in countries that perpetrate grave abuses of human rights, especially the uniquely monstrous crime of genocide, are of concern to many United States investors and citizens even when these operations represent a small fraction of a company's total business.

(15) State and city pension funds have routinely but unsuccessfully sought to acquire and utilize data from the Federal Government on companies for investment decisions.

(16) There is an increasing interest by States, local governments, educational institutions, and private institutions to seek to disassociate themselves from companies that support the Government of Sudan.

(17) Policy makers and fund managers may find moral, prudential, or reputational reasons to divest from companies that accept the business risk of operating in countries that are subject to international economic