

The ability to obtain the right information at the right time is of critical importance in our struggle against radical terrorists who hide among civilian populations and quietly plot deadly attacks. The Protect America Act moved our intelligence capabilities in the right direction. The Senate understood that in a bipartisan way. The American people understand that. We hope and pray that the Speaker and the Democrat leadership will come to their senses and allow a vote on the Protect America Act.

#### OFFICERS SAY IRAQ WAR HAS STRETCHED MILITARY "DANGEROUSLY THIN"

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, 5 years after the start of the war in Iraq, a new authoritative poll shows the growing concern of U.S. military officers about the impact of the war in Iraq on our Nation's security. The poll is based on the opinions of 3,400 present and former military officers. Eighty-eight percent of these officers believe that the demands of the Iraq war have "stretched the U.S. military dangerously thin." Eighty percent of the military officers believe it is unreasonable to expect that the U.S. could respond to any new military threat in another part of the world. And nearly three-quarters of the officers believe civilian leaders set "unreasonable goals for the military in post-Saddam Iraq."

Clearly, the Bush administration is not listening to its own military officers. In fact, before the start of the Iraq war, not one single military officer believed that Iraq had anything to do with the war on terrorism. And yet President Bush is determined to continue this war irregardless of his military's own concerns.

Mr. Speaker, the war in Iraq has undermined our Nation's military strength and our readiness and, therefore, our national security.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). 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 later today.

#### CAPTAIN JONATHAN D. GRASSBAUGH POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2478) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service

located at 59 Colby Corner in East Hampstead, New Hampshire, as the "Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2478

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

#### SECTION 1. CAPTAIN JONATHAN D. GRASSBAUGH POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 59 Colby Corner in East Hampstead, New Hampshire, shall be known and designated as the "Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh 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 "Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### 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.

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

There was no objection.

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

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of S. 2478 which names a postal facility in the town of East Hampstead, New Hampshire, after Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh.

S. 2478, which was introduced in the Senate by Senator JOHN SUNUNU on December 13, 2007, and passed by the Chamber under unanimous consent on December 19, 2007, has been considered and reported out of the Oversight Committee by voice vote as of January 29, 2008.

Like many of the postal naming measures in which this body has previously considered and passed over the past couple of years, S. 2478 seeks to honor the service and dedication of a heroic American serviceman, the Honorable Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh, by naming after him the post office in his hometown of East Hampstead, New Hampshire.

Born and raised in the fine city of East Hampstead, New Hampshire, Captain Grassbaugh is held in high esteem by friends and family alike who recall him as an exceptional student and active community volunteer. After graduating from high school with honors, Captain Grassbaugh attended Johns

Hopkins University where he graduated in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in computer science. During his collegiate pursuits at Johns Hopkins, Captain Grassbaugh also served as the battalion commander for the school's ROTC program.

After completing U.S. Army Ranger School in April 2004, Captain Grassbaugh was assigned to the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Sadly, however, on April 7, 2007, while serving in Iraq, Captain Jonathan Grassbaugh was tragically killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit in Zaganiyah, Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, given Captain Grassbaugh's commitment to his community, his vocation and, of course, his country, I think it only fitting that we pass the underlying measure to designate the post office on Colby Corner in East Hampstead, New Hampshire, as the Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh Post Office.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today to urge passage of this bill designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 59 Colby Corner in East Hampstead, New Hampshire, as the Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh Post Office. Described by his family as "the epitome of an officer and a gentleman," Captain Jonathan Grassbaugh was a truly remarkable young man.

Born into a military family, Captain Grassbaugh moved to New Hampshire at the age of 3. After graduating from Phillips Exeter Academy, he attended Johns Hopkins University where he earned his degree in computer science. During his time at Hopkins, Jonathan rose quickly through the ranks of his Army ROTC class, selected as the cadet battalion commander his senior year. Jonathan's dedication and sense of honor served as a driving force behind the JHU Ranger Challenge team winning brigade competitions 2 years in a row and the battalion being rated third in the nation among 270 ROTC units.

In the words of one of his professors, "In my 9 years of teaching ROTC, Jonathan Grassbaugh was by far one of the most energetic and conscientious young men that I have ever had the honor to teach."

In 2005 during his first tour in Iraq, Captain Grassbaugh served as aide-de-camp to Brigadier General Michael Ferriter, a top adviser to the U.S. military commander in Iraq. Speaking at Jonathan's funeral, Ferriter commented on the young man he grew to know so well: "He made me a better leader and a better man. He was simply as good as it gets. He was the best; a warrior, friend, comrade, loving husband, and caring son."

In June of 2006, Jonathan married his college sweetheart, Jenna, just a few

days after her graduation from Hopkins. A few weeks later he was deployed to Iraq as a member of the 73rd Cavalry, 5th Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division. On April 7, 2007, the 25-year-old Grassbaugh was killed by an IED while conducting a combat logistic patrol in Zaganiyah, Iraq.

A loving husband, dedicated son, and accomplished soldier, Captain Grassbaugh was and will remain a shining example of America's best. Though we will never have the privilege of knowing the limits of his seemingly endless potential, the memory of his spirit, honor, and dedication should live on as an example to others. In the words of the Reverend Frederick Pennett at his funeral, "He laid down his life for us and for his country. There is no greater love than this. Jonathan's story and his memory will go on forever."

I urge that we help preserve the memory of Captain Jonathan Grassbaugh with passage of this bill, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this fitting tribute.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she might consume to Representative CAROL SHEA-PORTER from New Hampshire.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this bill and in honor of a great son of New Hampshire, Captain Jonathan Grassbaugh. I would like to thank my colleagues in the House for bringing this to the floor and my colleagues in the Senate for passing the original version.

Mr. Speaker, it is a special privilege for me to offer my remarks in support of this legislation and to have an opportunity to share with my colleagues in the House the story of an outstanding young man, a courageous leader, and a brave husband.

Jon was born on August 18, 1981. He and his family moved to Hampstead, New Hampshire, 8 years later and quickly grew roots in their community. His mother, Patricia, is the principal at Hampstead Middle School. Jon attended the elite Phillips Exeter Academy and graduated with honors in 1999. He attended Johns Hopkins University where he was commissioned through their ROTC program and graduated in 2003. That's also where Jon met his wife, Jenna, an Army officer in her own right. Tragically, they had only been married 10 months when an IED took Jon and three of his fellow Rangers on a combat logistics patrol in Diyala province.

When Jon finished school, he continued a strong family tradition of service to our country. His father was also a Ranger who served in Vietnam. Jon's brother is a West Point and Dartmouth graduate and an Army surgeon at Fort Lewis.

For Jon, it was not enough to serve. He excelled, the best of the best. A highly decorated officer, Jon was assigned to 5th Squad, 73rd Cavalry, 3rd BCT of the 82nd Airborne, Fort Bragg. As I said, the best of the best. Among

more than a dozen of Jon's medals and honors are the Bronze Star he earned for combat heroism and a Purple Heart.

Jon was killed in action on April 7, 2007. He was only 25 years old. Our thoughts and prayers remain with his wife, Jenna. Jon was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery alongside three centuries of America's heroes, hallowed ground befitting a hero. We in New Hampshire are lucky to have had time with him and we have been blessed by the life of this wonderful man.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in continuing to honor his life by voting to memorialize his service, his dedication to his country and to his family, and his willingness to give his country his own life. Join me in passing S. 2478 for Army Ranger Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this resolution and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2478.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### JOHN "MARTY" THIELS SOUTHPARK STATION

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2272) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service known as the Southpark Station in Alexandria, Louisiana, as the John "Marty" Thiels Southpark Station, in honor and memory of Thiels, a Louisiana postal worker who was killed in the line of duty on October 4, 2007.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

#### S. 2272

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

#### SECTION 1. JOHN "MARTY" THIELS SOUTHPARK STATION.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service known as the Southpark Station in Alexandria, Louisiana, shall be known and designated as the "John 'Marty' Thiels Southpark Station".

(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 "John 'Marty' Thiels Southpark Station".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### 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.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1030

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

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of S. 2272, which names the postal facility in the town of Southpark Station in Alexandria, Louisiana, as the John "Marty" Thiels Southpark Station in honor and memory of Thiels, a Louisiana postal worker who was killed in the line of duty on October 4, 2007.

S. 2272, which was introduced on October 31, 2007, in the Senate by Senator DAVID VITTER of Louisiana and passed by the Chamber under unanimous consent on November 16, 2007, has been considered and reported out of the Oversight Committee by voice vote as of January 29, 2008.

S. 2272 comes to us today from our friends from the State of Louisiana as a way of acknowledging and honoring the work of one of the postal service's own, John Thiels. Affectionately referred to as Marty, Mr. Thiels spent a significant portion of his professional career working for the United States Postal Service. In fact, Thiels served as a letter carrier for nearly 30 years, and 24 years out of those 30 he spent delivering mail to the downtown section of Alexandria, Louisiana.

A devout husband and a loving father of four, Mr. Thiels' life was cut dramatically short when on October 4, 2007, a distraught 64-year-old gunman went on a shooting rampage near the Rapides Parish Courthouse in Alexandria, Louisiana, wounding three and killing two, one of whom was John Thiels, and the other was Camille Gior-dano, II, a 32-year-old assistant district attorney.

An obvious and heartbreaking misfortune, Mr. Thiels lost his life while doing something that he had done so diligently for so many years, delivering mail. John Marty Thiels will long be remembered by many in the Alexandria, Louisiana, area for his years of service and his virtuous reputation.

Mr. Speaker, let us pay tribute to the life of this gentleman by passing S. 2272 and renaming the Southpark Post Office Station in Alexandria, Louisiana, as the John "Marty" Thiels Southpark Station.

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

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