

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I stand with my colleagues from the Buckeye State of Ohio in consideration of H.R. 5400, which renames the postal facility in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, in honor of Sergeant Michael M. Kashkoush.

H.R. 5400 comes to us with widespread support from the Ohio congressional delegation, yet the measure was first introduced by my colleague, Representative STEVE LATOURETTE, back on February 12, 2008. The measure was taken up by the Oversight Committee on February 26, 2008, where it was passed by the panel by voice vote.

H.R. 5400 calls for honoring Sergeant Kashkoush's service to our country by naming the post office in his hometown of Chagrin Falls after him.

Assigned to the 3rd Intelligence Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan, Sergeant Michael M. Kashkoush succumbed to his death on January 23, 2007, as a result of fatal wounds received while conducting combat operations in Iraq's Anbar province.

Born and raised in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, Sergeant Kashkoush was a graduate of Chagrin Falls High School, where he was instrumental in taking the school's football and wrestling teams to winning seasons before electing to enlist in the Marine Corps after graduation. Sergeant Kashkoush was only 24 years old when he died in the line of duty as a counterintelligence/human intelligence specialist attached to the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Sergeant Kashkoush's sacrifice and service to America, let us pass without reservation H.R. 5400.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend, Mr. LATOURETTE of Ohio, a very fine Congressman, for such time as he may consume.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I thank the gentleman from Indiana for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank Chairman WAXMAN and Ranking Member DAVIS for moving this legislation expeditiously through the committee and on to the floor today. And I want to thank the other Mr. DAVIS from Illinois and Mr. BURTON for so ably managing it today as well.

Mr. Speaker, Michael Kashkoush grew up in Michigan, and then he moved to Chagrin Falls to start high school. He was the beloved son of Marwan and Mary Jane Kashkoush.

He spent his freshman and sophomore years in Chagrin Falls, and then moved with his family to London for a year and returned to Chagrin for his senior year, graduating in 2001.

Michael was like many young men. His high school years had been about girls, friends, lifting weights, sports, and parties. He started college with great intentions, but didn't find it a good fit for that moment in his life

and, after 2 years, he announced to his parents that he wanted to join the Marines. The exceptionally bright and capable young man said that he had led a soft life and wanted to be a marine because "they're the toughest and most disciplined in the world." The Marines were the matching puzzle piece for this gifted former high school wrestler and football player.

Michael's father urged him to finish college and instead attend officers school, but Michael believed he could not lead unless he knew what it was that the grunts had to do. Marwan Kashkoush stood behind his son's choice.

Michael was an exemplary marine and was promoted to sergeant in 2005 in counterintelligence/human intelligence. He had never spoken Arabic, but at the Defense Language Institute in 6 short months he mastered the language. He had a limitless future in the Marines.

In 4 short years, the United States Marine Corps made Michael Kashkoush a man. They gave his self-described "soft life" purpose. He was very proud of his military service to our country. On January 23, 2007, just 10 days after being sent to Iraq, he died while conducting combat operations in Anbar province.

Earlier this year, Michael's father and stepmother, Phoebe Brockman Kashkoush, wrote to me and asked me if I would introduce this piece of legislation in honor of Michael. It was a wonderful idea, and it is a perfect one for Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

Chagrin Falls is a small, tight-knit community where neighbors are close and there is a genuine sense of community. It is a place where there are almost as many American flags as front porches, and when one of their own died, it deeply touched the community.

Chagrin Falls, a town of about 4,000 people, turned out en masse for the funeral services, and some 600 people crammed into St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, where they sang a joyful, tearful rendition of Don McLean's "American Pie." The Jaycees adorned street posts with hundreds of flags, and more than 300 people walked the half-mile trek from the church down South Franklin Street in blustery snow to Michael's final resting place.

It is fitting, Mr. Speaker, that the Chagrin Falls Post Office be named in honor of Sergeant Michael Kashkoush, and it is a wonderful remembrance for a family who has lost so much.

The father who first resisted his son's plan to enlist credits the Marines with changing his life. He said, "They built me my best friend."

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was looking at the picture of Mr. Kashkoush, and all I can say is he exemplifies the thousands of young men and women who have gone to serve their country in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere in the world. And we just can't say enough about young people like that who go out there and risk

their lives to protect our freedoms. I am very happy that my colleague from Ohio took the time to introduce this legislation, and I am very happy to support that.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5400.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR APPOINTMENT OF JOHN W. MCCARTER AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 25) providing for the appointment of John W. McCarter as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate joint resolution.

The text of the Senate joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 25

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring because of the expiration of the term of Walter E. Massey of Georgia, is filled by the appointment of John W. McCarter of Illinois, for a term of 6 years, effective on the date of the enactment of this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the RECORD on this Senate joint resolution being considered today.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Senate Joint Resolution 25 would appoint John W.

McCarter, Jr. as a citizen regent of the Smithsonian for a 6-year term. Mr. McCarter is currently the president and CEO of the Field Museum in Chicago, which is one of our Nation's great cultural institutions.

Mr. McCarter has had a diverse background in government and business in addition to his role in heading one of the Nation's great museums. A native Chicagoan, he previously was senior vice president of Booz Allen & Hamilton, president of DeKalb Corporation, and was budget director of the State of Illinois under Governor Richard B. Ogilvie. He was a White House Fellow during the administration of President Lyndon Johnson.

Mr. McCarter brings a wealth of useful skills to the board. As an experienced museum director, he may prove especially valuable in helping to implement governance reforms at the institution.

Passage of this joint resolution would fill a vacancy on the Smithsonian Board of Regents that has lasted for nearly 1 year. It continues the necessary process of bringing new blood into the Smithsonian Institution. Passage now would allow Mr. McCarter to join the board in time for a vote to appoint a new Secretary, which is expected later this month.

There is still one vacancy remaining among the citizen regents of the Smithsonian. I urge the board to send Congress a recommendation soon, so we can bring it back up to full strength.

I urge approval of the joint resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EHLERS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of S.J. Res. 25, the appointment of John W. McCarter as a citizen regent of the Smithsonian Institution's Board of Regents.

The previous speaker, the Chair of the House Administration Committee, has pointed out the outstanding record of Mr. McCarter and what he has done. He is the ideal appointee to the board of the Smithsonian.

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Mr. McCarter combines extensive experience as director of the Field Museum, which is a responsibility very similar to that of the Smithsonian Museum, although perhaps on a smaller scale. His experience in the day-to-day operations of the Field Museum will hold him in good stead on the Smithsonian Board. Furthermore, he has considerable experience in the private sector, and that experience will also be most helpful in the operation of the Smithsonian.

Mr. Speaker, we have had some problems with the Smithsonian during the past few years, with both the previous secretary and with some of the enterprises the Smithsonian has engaged in. I would volunteer that Mr. McCarter is precisely the sort of person we need to

straighten out the operations of the Smithsonian, to serve with his unique knowledge in the field of museums, and also his role in business. I believe he is going to make an outstanding addition to this board. I am very confident that we should appoint him, and that he will be a well-qualified, highly capable addition to the board charged with protecting the Nation's Attic, as we fondly call the Smithsonian. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution, S.J. Res. 25.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER ACT OF 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5159) to establish the Office of the Capitol Visitor Center within the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, headed by the Chief Executive Officer for Visitor Services, to provide for the effective management and administration of the Capitol Visitor Center, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5159

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the “Capitol Visitor Center Act of 2008”.

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

Subtitle A—Description of Facility

Sec. 101. Description and purposes of Capitol Visitor Center.

Sec. 102. Oversight of committees.

Sec. 103. Special rule for certain spaces in the Capitol Visitor Center.

Subtitle B—Office of the Capitol Visitor Center; Chief Executive Officer for Visitor Services

Sec. 111. Establishment.

Sec. 112. Appointment and supervision of Chief Executive Officer for Visitor Services.

Sec. 113. General duties of Chief Executive Officer.

Sec. 114. Acceptance of gifts and volunteer services.

Sec. 115. Special rules regarding certain administrative matters.

TITLE II—RELATED SERVICES PROVIDED AT CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

Subtitle A—Related Services Described

Sec. 201. Gift shop.

Sec. 202. Food service operations.

Sec. 203. Licenses and other agreements for operations or other functions.

Subtitle B—Capitol Visitor Center Revolving Fund

Sec. 211. Establishment; accounts.

Sec. 212. Deposits in the Fund.

Sec. 213. Use of monies.

Sec. 214. Administration of Fund.

TITLE III—TREATMENT OF CAPITOL GUIDE SERVICE

Subtitle A—Transfer to Office of the Capitol Visitor Center

Sec. 301. Transfer of Capitol Guide Service.

Sec. 302. Duties of employees of Capitol Guide Service.

Subtitle B—Office of Congressional Accessibility Services

Sec. 311. Establishment of Office of Congressional Accessibility Services.

Sec. 312. Director of Accessibility Services.

Sec. 313. Transfer from Capitol Guide Service.

Subtitle C—Technical and Conforming Amendments

Sec. 321. Technical and conforming amendments.

Subtitle D—Transfer Date

Sec. 331. Transfer date.

TITLE IV—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 401. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE I—ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

Subtitle A—Description of Facility

SEC. 101. DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSES OF CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER.

(a) *TREATMENT AS PART OF CAPITOL.*—In this Act, the “Capitol Visitor Center” is the facility authorized for construction under the heading “Capitol Visitor Center” under chapter 5 of title II of division B of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999 (Public Law 105-277; 112 Stat. 2681-569), and such facility shall be considered to be part of the United States Capitol for all provisions of law in accordance with this Act.

(b) *PURPOSES OF THE FACILITY.*—In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Capitol Visitor Center shall be used to—

(1) provide enhanced security for persons working in or visiting the United States Capitol; and

(2) improve the visitor experience by providing a structure that will afford improved visitor orientation and enhance the educational experience of those who have come to learn about Congress and the Capitol.

(c) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO VISITOR CENTER SPACE IN THE CAPITOL.*—Section 301 of the National Visitor Center Facilities Act of 1968 (2 U.S.C. 2165) is repealed.

SEC. 102. OVERSIGHT OF COMMITTEES.

The Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate and the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “super-visiting Committees”) shall exercise policy review and oversight over the Capitol Visitor Center.

SEC. 103. SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN SPACES IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER.

(a) *SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPANSION SPACE.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Senate and House of Representatives expansion space described as “unassigned space” under the heading “Architect of the Capitol, Capitol Visitor Center” in the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107-68; 115 Stat. 588)—

(1) shall not be treated as part of the Capitol Visitor Center for purposes of this Act; and

(2) shall be treated for purposes of law (including rules of the House of Representatives and Senate)—

(A) in the case of space assigned for the use of the Senate, as part of the Senate wing of the