

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any other speakers, but I want to urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4240, the naming of this post office for this great American hero.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and would urge passage.

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. 4240.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### LARRY S. PIERCE POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2110) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 427 North Street in Taft, California, as the "Larry S. Pierce Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2110

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

#### SECTION 1. LARRY S. PIERCE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 427 North Street in Taft, California, shall be known and designated as the "Larry S. Pierce 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 "Larry S. Pierce Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

As a member of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, I'm pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of S. 2110, which names the postal facility in the town of Taft, California, after Larry S. Pierce.

S. 2110, which was introduced in the Senate by Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California on September 27, 2007, and passed by the Chamber with unanimous consent on November 16, 2007, was considered and reported out of the Oversight Committee by voice vote on December 12, 2007.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us seeks to pay tribute to a great American serviceman by requesting that the postal facility in Taft, California, be renamed in honor of Staff Sergeant Larry Pierce, who lost his life at the young age of 24 while fighting for our country in the Vietnam War. A recipient of the Medal of Honor, Staff Sergeant Pierce stands as a reminder to us all of the great sacrifice our men and women in uniform are making on a daily basis to protect America.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues from California in recognizing the contributions of Staff Sergeant Larry S. Pierce and urge swift passage of this bill.

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume. I rise today to honor the memory of Army Staff Sergeant Larry Pierce, a true American hero.

Larry Pierce was raised in Taft, California. He would have graduated from Taft Union High School in 1959, but he chose to enlist in the Army in 1958. Seven years later, having achieved the rank of staff sergeant, Larry found himself in Vietnam as the squad leader of a reconnaissance platoon. On September 20, 1965, his squad was on patrol when it was ambushed by hostile forces. Thanks to Staff Sergeant Pierce's leadership and courage, the squad successfully repelled the attack, driving the enemy away. While in pursuit of the enemy, Pierce's squad came across a dirt road. It was on this road Sergeant Pierce discovered an anti-personnel mine. Knowing it would destroy the majority of his squad who was not aware of its presence, Sergeant Pierce threw himself completely on top of the mine. In this act of unbelievable bravery, Sergeant Pierce saved the lives of all his squad, while sacrificing his own. For his actions he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. He left behind a wife and three children.

Sergeant Pierce represents the very best in the tradition of service and selflessness of our Armed Forces. It is fitting that we name this post office in his hometown of Taft, California, in his honor. Surely, his story can live as an example of what it truly means to be a hero.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would continue to reserve.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to recognize the author of the companion bill that was dropped here in the House, the distinguished colleague of mine from California (Mr. MCCARTHY) for as much time as he may consume.

□ 1430

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the legislation, S. 2110, to designate the United States Post Office located at 427 North Street in Taft, California, as the Larry S. Pierce Post Office, the true hometown hero.

U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Pierce was born in Oklahoma in 1941. As a young child, his family moved to Taft, California, which I represent today. Sergeant Pierce attended Taft city schools and would have graduated from Taft Union High School with the class of 1959 but decided to serve his country by joining the U.S. Army in 1958.

Sergeant Pierce served in the 1st Battalion Airborne, 503rd Infantry and the 173rd Airborne Brigade in the Vietnam War.

On September 20, 1965, near Ben Cat in Vietnam, Sergeant Pierce was leading his reconnaissance platoon, was ambushed by hostile forces. Sergeant Pierce and his squad successfully routed the hostile forces from their location. During pursuit of this enemy, Sergeant Pierce heroically sacrificed his own life to save his men. He came upon a road where they found a mine. He threw himself upon it knowing that if this mine went off, it would destroy many and take many lives of his own men.

Upon hearing of this and upon his death, in February of 1966 President Lyndon B. Johnson awarded Sergeant Pierce the Medal of Honor. In this award, he went on to say for his "inspiring leadership and personal courage," and his "profound concern for his fellow soldiers," acting with "extraordinary heroism, at the cost of his life" and to "great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country."

Sergeant Pierce would have been 66 years old this year. He is survived by his wife, Verlin, who currently lives in Bakersfield, California; his children, Teresa, Kelley and Gregory.

This legislation is a fitting honor for a Vietnam War veteran who sacrificed his life to save the lives of fellow soldiers by naming the post office in his hometown of Taft in his memory.

I do want to thank Senator FEINSTEIN for introducing this legislation and for working with me. Taft is a place where Senator FEINSTEIN's own father worked. She knows of the work of Sergeant Larry Pierce, the hometown hero, as many have gone on to say.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a copy of Staff Sergeant Larry Pierce's Medal of Honor and a copy of the Taft City Council letter of support and resolution requesting the post office in his name.

U.S. ARMY—MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION  
PIERCE, LARRY S.

Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Army, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade. Place and date: Near Ben Cat, Republic of Vietnam, 20 September 1965. Entered service at: Fresno, Calif. Born:

6 July 1941, Wewoka, Okla. G.O. No.: 7, 24 February 1966. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. Sgt. Pierce was serving as squad leader in a reconnaissance platoon when his patrol was ambushed by hostile forces. Through his inspiring leadership and personal courage, the squad succeeded in eliminating an enemy machinegun and routing the opposing force. While pursuing the fleeing enemy, the squad came upon a dirt road and, as the main body of his men entered the road, Sgt. Pierce discovered an antipersonnel mine emplaced in the road bed. Realizing that the mine could destroy the majority of his squad, Sgt. Pierce saved the lives of his men at the sacrifice of his life by throwing himself directly onto the mine as it exploded. Through his indomitable courage, complete disregard for his safety, and profound concern for his fellow soldiers, he averted loss of life and injury to the members of his squad. Sgt. Pierce's extraordinary heroism, at the cost of his life, are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.

CITY OF TAFT,  
Taft, CA, September 10, 2007.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

SIR: The City Council of the City of Taft, at their regular meeting on September 4, 2007, unanimously passed Resolution No. 2986-07, which requests that The Congress of the United States of America name the Taft Post Office "The Larry S. Pierce Post Office".

Enclosed is a certified copy of the Resolution and a brief biography of SSG Pierce, and the City Council of the City of Taft urges you to introduce legislation in the United States House of Representatives to implement this name change. SSG Pierce is an honored son of Taft and the citizens of Taft wish to remember him in this manner.

A similar request is being sent to California State Senator Dianne Feinstein for introduction of legislation in the Senate. If you need any additional information about SSG Pierce or the City of Taft, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

LOUISE HUDGENS,  
City Clerk.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT REQUESTING CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO NAME THE TAFT POST OFFICE "THE LARRY S. PIERCE POST OFFICE"

Whereas, Larry S. Pierce was born July 6, 1941, in Wewoka, Oklahoma, and as a young child moved with his family to Taft, California and attended Taft City Schools and Taft Union High School; and

Whereas, Larry S. Pierce would have graduated with the Taft Union High School class of 1959; however, he chose instead to serve his country and joined the United States Army in 1958 and attained the rank of Staff Sergeant in the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade; and

Whereas, on September 20, 1965, near Ben Cat in the Republic of Vietnam, Larry S. Pierce, while serving as a squad leader, gave the ultimate sacrifice by smothering the blast of an anti-personnel mine with his body to protect his fellow soldiers; and

Whereas, on February 24, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th President of the United States, posthumously awarded Staff Sergeant Pierce the Medal of Honor, which was accepted by Pierce's wife, Verlin, daughter Teresa, and sons Kelley and Gregory; and

Whereas, a portion of the Medal of Honor citation reads, "Through his indomitable courage, complete disregard for his safety, and profound concern for his fellow soldiers, he averted loss of life and injury to the members of his squad. Sgt. Pierce's extraordinary heroism, at the cost of his life, are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country"; and

Whereas, Taft has faithfully supported its sons and daughters who have served in the military, particularly those who have gone in harm's way; and it is fitting and appropriate that a community with such values should conspicuously honor its heroes; and

Whereas, specifically the citizens of Taft, California, wish to honor the memory of Larry S. Pierce by naming the Taft Post Office, 427 North Street, Taft, California 93268 after him. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, The City Council of the City of Taft does hereby request The Congress of the United States of America to name the Taft Post Office, "The Larry S. Pierce Post Office".

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, at this time I have no further speakers, and I urge all Members to support the passage of S. 2110.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time and urge the passage of this bill.

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 Senate bill, S. 2110.

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 question will be postponed.

#### RICHARD B. ANDERSON FEDERAL BUILDING

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4140) to designate the Port Angeles Federal Building in Port Angeles, Washington, as the "Richard B. Anderson Federal Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4140

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

#### SECTION 1. RICHARD B. ANDERSON FEDERAL BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building located at 138 West First Street, Port Angeles, Washington, shall be known and designated as the "Richard B. Anderson Federal Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal

building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Richard B. Anderson Federal Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 4140.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4140 is a bill to designate the Federal building located at 138 West First Street, Port Angeles, Washington, as the Richard B. Anderson Federal Building.

Private First Class Richard Anderson was born in 1921 in Tacoma, Washington. He joined the Marine Corps on July 6, 1942, and received his Marine Corps training in San Diego, California.

He died at the young age of 22 during World War II and on Roi Island, part of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Medal of Honor. His heroism is marked by his actions on Roi Island when he hurled himself on a live grenade in a shell hole to save the lives of many people. He was severely injured and died of his injuries on February 1, 1944. He was buried at sea with full military honors.

In 1945, the U.S. Navy destroyer USS *Richard B. Anderson* was named in honor of Medal of Honor recipient Anderson.

It is both fitting and proper to honor the life and courageous actions of Richard B. Anderson in this designation. I support this bill.

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

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

The bill before us designates what is a Federal building in Port Angeles, Washington, as the Richard B. Anderson Federal Building.

Richard Beatty Anderson served in the United States Marines during World War II in the Marshall Islands. He sacrificed his life to save three other marines by throwing his body on a live grenade and taking the full impact of the explosion. Private First Class Anderson was evacuated to a ship where he died of his wounds on February 1, 1944.

His heroism and loyalty in the face of certain death earned him the Medal of Honor. The United States Navy destroyer USS *Richard B. Anderson* was