

and beauty for future generations, and engages in good environmental stewardship. This resolution supports the goals of National Arbor Day and the National Arbor Day Foundation.

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, and Mr. CLYBURN of South Carolina for his help today, and the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS), the ranking member of the committee, for their help in bringing this important resolution to the floor.

A bit of history on Arbor Day. J. Sterling Morton served as United States Secretary of Agriculture, and is honored as one of two Nebraskans to have a statue in the United States Capitol. His former home, Arbor Lodge in Nebraska City, is now the centerpiece of a truly magnificent State historical park.

An early pioneer to the Nebraska territory, he first proposed Arbor Day in 1872 to address the absence of trees in Nebraska. Trees were needed to produce fuel and building materials, provide the necessary shade and wind breaks, as well as to prevent soil erosion. It is estimated that Nebraskans planted more than 1 million trees during that first Arbor Day.

Before long, the idea spread. Arbor Day is now celebrated in all 50 States and in many Nations throughout the world. Although National Arbor Day is always the last Friday in April, individual States observe Arbor Day on various dates, according to the most appropriate tree planting times.

Another outstanding Nebraskan, John Rosenow, built upon that legacy. In 1972, he established the National Arbor Day Foundation. Its mission is to "inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees." Through its Trees for America program, it distributes more than 8 million trees annually. The Foundation has worked with the United States Department of Agriculture's forest service since 1990, helping to plant nearly 4 million trees in national forests that have been damaged by fire, insects, or other natural causes. The Foundation has also branched out beyond the United States borders, promoting environmental activities throughout the world, including rainforest preservations.

Mr. Speaker, it is very appropriate that we honor Arbor Day and its vision of dedication to tree planting. We should also recognize the countless individuals in our country who have planted trees in fulfillment of this important vision.

J. Sterling Morton once also said, "Other holidays repose on the past. Arbor Day proposes for the future." By supporting this resolution, we honor the spirit of Arbor Day. Planting trees is about planting for the future.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distin-

guished colleague from the State of Idaho (Mr. SALI).

Mr. SALI. I thank the gentlewoman.

I rise in support of H. Res. 1114, supporting the goals and ideals of the Arbor Day Foundation and National Arbor Day. I wholeheartedly support the planting as well as the management of healthy trees and forests. The Forest Service has estimated that a healthy and well managed forest could sequester much more of our national carbon emissions than our forests currently sequester, currently sequestering an estimated 10 percent of our national carbon emissions.

I rise in support of this resolution. I also rise to urge my colleagues to address other issues facing our Nation, especially rising fuel prices. Increasing the supply of crude oil and ultimately its price is the single most effective thing Congress can do to lower gas prices. Today, 73 percent of every dollar we pay for gasoline is the price of producing crude oil. And yet, according to a study just released by the Bureau of Land Management, while onshore public lands in the United States are estimated to contain 31 billion barrels of oil and 231 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, some 60 percent of these lands are completely closed to leasing. Congress must act to lift the restrictions on America's energy rich public lands and increase exploration for and production of American crude oil and natural gas, and do so in an environmentally friendly manner.

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

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Nebraska for introducing this resolution.

I am reminded that my mother was a serious conservationist who just loved the beauty of flowers and trees. I would urge passage of this resolution as I close by remembering the words of Joyce Kilmer who had a poem called "Trees." He said that:

I think that I shall never see  
A poem so lovely as a tree.  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately sleeps with the rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

I would urge passage.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution honoring the goals and ideals of the Arbor Day Foundation and National Arbor Day.

Trees—They provide us with shelter and warmth. They clean the air we breathe. Their majesty inspires awe and alters landscapes. Mankind owes its livelihood to these miracles of nature, yet it is so easy to overlook their importance and beauty.

These traits were not lost to J. Sterling Morton, a pioneer who moved from Detroit to the unforgiving, treeless plains of the Nebraska Territory in 1854. A journalist and avid lover of nature, Morton used his position as editor of Nebraska's first newspaper to spread agricultural information and his enthusiasm for trees.

His words did not fall on deaf ears. Fellow pioneers soon realized how valuable trees were to their survival, not only for fuel and building materials, but for the stability of the soil and shade from the arid sun.

Once appointed as the secretary of the Nebraska Territory, on January 4, 1872 Morton first proposed a tree-planting holiday called "Arbor Day." That same year, on April 10, citizens across Nebraska planted over one million trees.

The first official Arbor Day was held on April 10, 1874 and by 1885 it became a legal holiday in Nebraska to be celebrated on April 22, J. Sterling Morton's birthday. Throughout the 1870's the appeal spread across the nation and it was not long before Arbor Day was celebrated in each state of the United States.

Today, Arbor Day is observed not only throughout this great nation, but across the globe. While most states observe Arbor Day on the last Friday in April, celebrations have evolved to correspond with varying ideal planting weather.

In response to growing national and international popularity, the Arbor Day Foundation was founded in 1972 to "inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees." The Arbor Day Foundation fuels their mission through the Arbor Day Farm, promoting and coordinating events, working with government and corporate entities, and distributing over 10 million trees annually.

What began as a local holiday born of one man's enthusiasm has flourished into a global celebration. From Florida to Oregon and Cambodia to Venezuela, people gather to honor the ideals of Arbor Day.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and cherish its goal, captured convincingly in the words of its founder, J. Sterling Morton—"the cultivation of trees is the cultivation of the good, the beautiful, and the ennobling in man."

Mr. Davis of Illinois. 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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1114.

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.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,  
POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1734) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 630 Northeast Killingsworth Avenue in Portland, Oregon, as the "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1734

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

**SECTION 1. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. POST OFFICE.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 630 Northeast Killingsworth Avenue in Portland, Oregon, shall be known and designated as the “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 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 “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 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 within 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, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the sponsor of this resolution, Representative BLUMENAUER from the State of Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy.

I rise today in asking my colleagues to join me in this legislation to designate the facility of the postal service on Northeast Killingsworth in Portland as the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Post Office.

Dr. King, as a powerful symbol of racial justice and social equality in our country, is a fitting designation for this facility. I have had some experience in the community dealing with recognition for Dr. King. Some 20 years ago as Portland's Commissioner of Public Works that I worked with the community, notably of my friend Bernie Foster, the publisher of The Scanner newspaper, and others, to designate Union Avenue after Dr. King. It was an eye opening experience for me, a reminder of the troubled racial past of our community and our State. While Oregon has a rich cultural heritage for black Americans, it had a rocky path towards racial equality.

While slavery was declared illegal early in Oregon's history, in 1848, the provisional government had exclusionary laws surrounding land ownership. And when Oregon was admitted to the Constitution, it had exclusionary laws then. It was only after a long and aggressive struggle that progress was made.

In 1914, the NAACP opened a chapter in Portland, and continues to be the oldest continually chartered chapter west of the Mississippi. This movement

was bolstered by the independent black owned weekly newspaper, The Advocate, that dated back 105 years in Portland that tirelessly featured articles and editorials dealing with the evils of segregation, lynching, employment opportunities, and other issues that kept the reality of Jim Crow and the pressing need for civil rights in the State, local, and national agenda in the forefront. Sadly, it wasn't until 1927 that the Oregon State Constitution was finally amended to remove the clause denying blacks the right to vote, even though Oregon had ratified the 14th amendment in 1868.

We have been, in our community, trying to come to grips with that past. And, as I mentioned, it was a tumultuous experience we had 20 years ago in the renaming of Union Avenue after Dr. King. But it did come to pass. In the course of the 20 years, we have watched steady progress as we have dealt with our past and as we look forward to the future.

I find the renaming of this post office after Dr. King to be significant on so many different levels. First of all, it came about as the result of a grassroots community effort led by local letter carriers, Jamie Partridge and Isham Harris, that epitomized the service from that particular post office, something that people in the community remark to me as sort of an island, one of these 37 outposts of the post office where half the world's mail is delivered every day. But this is a linkage to people, and it is a very special office signified by the leadership of letter carriers themselves.

□ 1500

Starting with their fellow workers, moving out through the Piedmont and Concordia Neighborhood Associations, the Sabin Neighborhood Association, showing deep community pride in its heritage.

I find today, Mr. Speaker, that it is particularly noteworthy because we are going to make history, in all likelihood, tonight or tomorrow, where there will be enough votes for the nomination of the first African American nominee of a major party for President of the United States, and one who I sincerely hope is elected.

Having the opportunity to reflect on that great national achievement, while we have the recognition locally for Dr. King and his achievements and the progress that has been made in our community gives me great pride. I'm pleased that we take a small step forward with the designation of this Post Office in the honor of Dr. King, and hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting it.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support of this bill designating the post office located at 630 Northeast Killingsworth Avenue in Portland, Oregon as the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Post Office.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is one of the most important public figures of our times. His leadership during the civil rights movement helped to make America the country it is today, a country that strives for equality, justice and liberty for all its citizens. Dr. King is an American icon and, as such, deserves this honor and recognition.

Dr. King, a southern Baptist minister, was instrumental in leading the civil rights movement during the 1950s and 60s. After his march on Washington in 1963, Dr. King's memorable and often quoted I Have a Dream speech established him as one of the greatest public speakers of his time.

In over 2,500 speeches over the course of his career Dr. King cried out against segregation and other forms of racial inequity, bringing discrimination to the forefront of people's minds and making civil rights a primary concern.

His ceaseless efforts to end racial discrimination and segregation through nonviolent means earned him a Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, making him the youngest recipient in history. He has also been honored with a Presidential Medal of Freedom and a Congressional Gold Medal. In 1983 Congress established a national holiday as a tribute to his memory.

Widely recognized as one of the most pivotal figures in the battle to end bigotry and discrimination on the basis of race, Dr. King led the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955, helped to found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957, and was instrumental in orchestrating the famous Birmingham, Alabama protests.

Towards the end of his life, Dr. King expanded his message to apply to impoverished Americans. The Poor People's Campaign focused on the economic injustice and tried to reach out to poor people of all races and cultures. Dr. King dedicated his life to ensuring the principles this country holds so dear, those of liberty and justice for all citizens.

I thank my respected colleague, EARL BLUMENAUER, for introducing this legislation, and reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, it is my unique pleasure to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 1734, which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 630 Northeast Killingsworth Avenue in Portland, Oregon as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Post Office.

The naming of a postal facility in Northwest America, hundreds of miles from Dr. King's civil rights battlefield in the Deep South, is a strong testimony to the far-reaching impact this pivotal figure had on our Nation as a whole.

H.R. 1734 was introduced by Representative EARL BLUMENAUER of Oregon on March 28, 2007, and was considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee on April 9, 2008, by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, we're all well aware of the activism of Dr. Martin Luther King during his lifetime on this Earth. From his leadership in helping to organize the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955, to his riveting I Have a Dream speech, Dr. King reminded our country of its fundamental responsibility to safeguard the natural, God-given rights of all men so that we are free to pursue our goals and aspirations without the artificial walls of skin color, religious affiliation, sexuality or any other pointless barrier that separates us from our fellow human persons.

Mr. Speaker, let us join our colleagues from the great State of Oregon, and once again pay tribute to the life and work of the great Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by renaming this postal facility at 630 Northeast Killingsworth Avenue in Portland, Oregon in honor of this great American hero. I strongly urge passage of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Idaho (Mr. SALI).

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill to designate this Portland post office in the name of and memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

While I support this designation, I note with some disappointment that we are not also addressing rising fuel prices on this week's schedule. Dr. King spoke passionately about our Nation's moral obligation to make sure that the needs of the poor and the elderly are met.

American senior citizens and low-income households have been disproportionately affected by higher energy costs. In 2006, before the skyrocketing and record-breaking fuel price increases we are seeing today, low-income households in America spent nearly 20 percent of their income on energy-related expenditures.

This is a moral issue, an issue which, for many low-income families, senior citizens and hardworking families, affects their access to education, and even to their doctors. It's time for Congress to act on that moral obligation to take care of the poor and the elderly, and lift the restrictions on America's energy rich public lands to increase exploration for and production of American crude oil and natural gas, and do so in an environmentally friendly manner.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 1734.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time and urge support for this resolution.

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. 1734.

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.

#### CHI MUI POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5477) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 South Del Mar Avenue in San Gabriel, California, as the "Chi Mui Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5477

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

#### SECTION 1. CHI MUI POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 South Del Mar Avenue in San Gabriel, California, shall be known and designated as the "Chi Mui Post Office Building".

(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 "Chi Mui Post Office Building".

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.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Now, Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the sponsor of this resolution, Representative ADAM SCHIFF from California.

Mr. SCHIFF. I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding, and I want to thank him, Mr. WAXMAN and the staff on the committee for working with me on this legislation.

I'm proud to stand here today to honor a well-respected and dedicated leader from the San Gabriel Valley. Mr. Chi Mui was a beloved member of the Asian American community in Southern California, and the mayor of the city of San Gabriel, where he dedicated himself to improving the quality of life for his neighbors, community and country. I can't think of a more fitting tribute to such an exceptional man than naming the post office in San

Gabriel, the town where he touched so many lives, in his honor.

Chi Mui's story epitomizes the American dream. Born in Toisan, China, Chi Mui was a man of humble origins whose early experiences enabled him to relate and connect to the Asian community in California.

After spending many of his early years in Hong Kong, Chi moved with his parents to New York City's vibrant Chinatown in 1963, at the age of 10. Chi spoke Cantonese with his parents, who were a seamstress and a cook, but quickly immersed himself in the language of his new home. As a new immigrant, he remembered feeling like an outsider on the edge of society, and found refuge, his own oasis in the New York Public Library, where he broadened his mind and developed a lifelong commitment to supporting public libraries.

His time reading and studying in the library served him well as he continued his schooling, graduating cum laude with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Polytechnic University in New York in 1980. After attending New York University, he moved west and began his distinguished career in public service.

In Los Angeles he served as deputy to one of our colleagues, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, and later to California State Senator, Richard Polanco. As their deputy, and in his own time, Chi began working to better the lives of immigrants in the region. Chi Mui's immigrant roots and experiences gave him a special insight and the wisdom and ability to connect with generations of people who came to this country for a better life.

Chi was a key player in the development of 600 units of affordable and senior housing in Los Angeles' Chinatown, and taught citizenship classes to help hundreds of legal residents become U.S. citizens. In 1999 he led an alliance of community leaders, neighborhood groups and businesses to save 50 acres of open space known as the "Cornfield" in downtown Los Angeles. This land became California's first ever urban State park, and is now known as the Los Angeles State Historic Park.

An avid runner and an athlete, he cared deeply about improving recreational facilities and opportunities for youth in the urban area of Los Angeles, and helped obtain \$35 million in State funding in 2001 for recreational facilities and activities in the new Los Angeles State Historic Park.

Chi also helped expand the capacity of the Alpine Recreation Center, which doubled in size due to his efforts. He volunteered his time to coach youth at the Alpine Center where he taught teamwork and sportsmanship.

He also founded and co-founded the Los Angeles Chinatown Athletic Association Volleyball Club and created a night basketball program for at-risk youth. Youth are still benefiting from his legacies. Both programs are still going strong today.