

I was saying to my staff as we were listening to this, can you imagine grandma or mom or a father who is out of work? I mean, unemployment in this country is now over 6 percent; it's gone up. You've got banks crashing all over the place; you've got the Federal Government putting \$85 billion into trying to save AIG, and you're talking about "drill, drill, drill."

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand here today in support of H.R. 1432, "Supporting the Goals and Ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by Promoting National Awareness of Adoption and the Children in Foster Care Awaiting Families, Celebrating Children and Families Involved in Adoption, Recognizing Current Programs and Efforts Designed to Promote Adoption, and Encouraging People in the United States to Seek Improved Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being for All Children" introduced by Congressman PORTER.

The fundamental purpose of adoption is to serve the best interests of children. It does so by providing loving, responsible, and legally permanent parents when their biological parents cannot or will not parent them. Serving the best interests of children should be paramount in deciding all issues of adoption policy and practice.

Adoption is healthy, satisfying, and good for children, not an enduring challenge to identity and wholeness. The children may have additional questions and curiosities to sort out, but adoption is not a psychological burden or pathology as some theorists treat it. Adoption is the way one joined one's family, not a defining characteristic or lifelong process. Persons adopted as infants grow up as healthy and productive as people raised in their biological families. To the extent there can be a greater risk of emotional or behavioral problems for children adopted out of foster care at later ages, the correlation is not the result of being adopted, but rather of difficulties experienced prior to adoption, such as neglect or abuse. The vast majority of foster children make the transition into their adoptive families and grow up very successfully.

Today, in the United States there are 500,000 children in the foster care system and of those children, there are 129,000 waiting for families to adopt them. The number of youth who "age out" of the foster care system by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home has increased by more than 58 percent since 1998, as nearly 27,000 foster youth "aged out" of foster care during 2007 which is appalling and unacceptable. In addition, 3 in 10 people in the United States have considered adoption; a majority of them have misconceptions about the process of adopting children from foster care. Many Americans, approximately 45 percent believe that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency. The reality of the matter is that the vast majority of children in the foster care system were victims of neglect, abandonment, or abuse. Furthermore, almost half of the American population believes that foster care adoption is expensive and are not aware of the fact that there is no substantial cost for adopting children from foster care. Moreover, financial support in the form of an adoption assistance subsidy is available to adoptive families of eligible children adopted from foster care and continues after the adoption is final-

ized until the child is 18, so that income will not be a barrier to becoming a parent to a foster child who needs to belong to a family.

Passing H.R. 1432 is essential for Congress to demonstrate their support for placing children in safe and positive family environments. The first National Adoption Day was in the year 2000; since then, 20,000 children have joined families during National Adoption Day, and in 2006, adoptions were finalized for over 3,300 children through more than 250 National Adoption Day events in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

We must continue to take stride to reach out and do our best to encourage safe, positive environment for the children of the United States. This resolution will enhance the support for successful adoptions and their support for National Adoption Month in November. When orphaned children are placed in a positive, encouraging, and permanent family environment, they are in a situation where they can grow and experience life in a non-threatening way. Adoption is something that benefits the entire Nation as our children are given places where they can feel secure.

I firmly believe that we must pass this legislation to demonstrate our support for Adoption and National Adoption month. This legislation will enable us to promote healthy and safe adoptions and celebrate the successful adoptions that ensure the well-being of children.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1432.

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. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### JACOB M. LOWELL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6681) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Vine Street in New Lenox, Illinois, as the "Jacob M. Lowell Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6681

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

#### SECTION 1. JACOB M. LOWELL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300

Vine Street in New Lenox, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Jacob M. Lowell 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 "Jacob M. Lowell 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. Madam 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. Madam Speaker, I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I stand with my colleagues from my home State of Illinois in consideration of H.R. 6681, which renames the postal facility in New Lenox, Illinois, in honor of Jacob M. Lowell.

H.R. 6681 enjoys the support of the entire House congressional delegation from Illinois and was introduced by Representative JERRY WELLER back on July 30, 2008. The measure was taken up by the Oversight Committee on September 10, 2008 and was passed by the panel by a voice vote.

H.R. 6681 calls for honoring Jacob M. Lowell's service to this country. Jacob M. Lowell of New Lenox, Illinois, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Air Assault), 173rd Airborne Brigade, Camp Ederle, Italy, when he died on June 2 near Gowardesh, Afghanistan. He died of wounds suffered when his unit came into contact with enemy forces using a rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire. This heroic son of Illinois was just 22 years old when he passed away.

Army Specialist Lowell played football for Lincoln-Way Central High School in New Lenox, Illinois.

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He graduated in 2003 and 2 years later enlisted in the Army. According to his family, Jacob joined the Army because he wanted to serve his country.

Madam Speaker, in honor of Jacob M. Lowell's service, I urge that we pass without reservation H.R. 6681 and rename the postal facility on Vine Street in New Lenox, Illinois, after this great American serviceman.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise this afternoon to pay tribute to a remarkable American and true

hero, Army Specialist Jacob Michael Lowell, from New Lenox, Illinois.

It was June 2, 2007, and he was on his first patrol of his first tour in Afghanistan with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, working as a gunner when his Humvee was ambushed. To the surprise of no one who knew him, Jacob moved immediately to protect his comrades but was shot and killed. Jacob Michael Lowell was 22.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate that we rename the post office in his home town in his honor. It will serve as a reminder to those who loved him of his courage and to those who come after him of his character and dedication to his country and fellow citizens.

Army Specialist Lowell was a 2003 graduate of Lincoln-Way Central High School where he played on the offensive line for the school's football team. He was one of those "110 percent guys" who always gave all he had and more.

From there, he went to college at Saint Xavier University and from there, in 2005, he enlisted in the Army. He was assigned to the 173rd Airborne in Vicenza, Italy. It was there he learned to love to jump from planes. He would call home to Illinois and tell his friends and family when and where he would take his next jump.

He was a man who loved doing his job, serving his country and protecting the freedom we hold dear. And that's why I urge all members to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, we are here this afternoon to pay tribute to a remarkable American and true hero, Army Specialist Jacob Michael Lowell from New Lenox, Illinois. And to do that, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Illinois, the author of this bill, Mr. WELLER.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6681, legislation I introduced in honor of Jacob M. Lowell to name the New Lenox Post Office in his honor. I also want to thank Chairman WAXMAN, Ranking Member TOM DAVIS, my very good friend, Chairman DANNY DAVIS, a member of our Illinois delegation, as well as Ranking Member KENNY MARCHANT for their support and assistance today.

Army Specialist Jacob Michael Lowell is a national hero who gave his life for his country on June 2, 2007, near Gowardesh, Afghanistan, while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom. Today the House will be voting on legislation I introduced with the cosponsorship of the entire Illinois delegation which will designate the New Lenox Post Office the "Jacob M. Lowell New Lenox Post Office Building." I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Army Specialist Jacob Michael Lowell of New Lenox, Illinois, graduated from Lincoln-Way Central High School in 2003. He attended St. Xavier University before heeding the call to serve his country and enlist in the Army in 2005. Specialist Lowell was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Air Assault), 173rd Airborne Brigade, Camp Ederle, Italy. He is remembered by his fellow soldiers for being an avid football fan and expressing his support

by shouting "Go Bears" at nearly any time.

On June 2, 2007, Jacob Lowell heroically defended his convoy. And as his company commander said, he did his duty all the way up until the end. After already having been hit by small arms fire and facing enemies using rocket-propelled grenades, Specialist Lowell manned a 50-caliber machine gun in defense of many members of his platoon. The wounds he suffered proved to be fatal to Specialist Lowell, but they were not enough to keep him from doing his heroic duty. Those present that day credit Jacob with saving lives.

Hearing such actions reminds us just how brave our men and women in uniform are.

Lowell was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" for valor and the Combat Infantryman's Badge for his actions during the firefight, and on May 12, 2008, his fellow soldiers renamed a combat outpost in Nuristan Province after their beloved, fallen comrade.

Local veterans have always reminded me that it's important to honor our soldiers and veterans each and every day. By naming the New Lenox Post Office after Jacob, we effectively honor all of them. It should be in the hearts and minds of all those who visit this post office that heroes like Jacob both founded our Nation and stand ready to protect it each and every day.

Our sincerest thanks to Specialist Lowell and to his family, and the honor of renaming this post office could never match the gift which Jacob has given our Nation. This honor merely represents that we should never forget the sacrifice which he and all who have sacrificed their lives serving our Nation have made for each and every one of us.

I know that we will all keep the family of Specialist Lowell and those of his fallen comrades in our prayers. I ask again that you will join me in honoring and remembering this extraordinary man whose heroism exemplifies everything that America stands for, and I ask you to support H.R. 6681, the Jacob Lowell New Lenox Post Office Designation Act.

In closing, I would like to thank Joseph Eannello for his hard work on this legislation and for his work in my office over the past 2 years. He has been an asset in my office and done excellent work for the people of the 11th Congressional District of Illinois.

Madam Speaker, I urge bipartisan support of this important legislation to honor someone who has sacrificed for our freedoms.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 6681, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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. 6681.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

MAYOR WILLIAM "BILL" SANDBERG POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6229) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2523 7th Avenue East in North Saint Paul, Minnesota, as the "Mayor William 'Bill' Sandberg Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6229

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

**SECTION 1. MAYOR WILLIAM "BILL" SANDBERG POST OFFICE BUILDING.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2523 7th Avenue East in North Saint Paul, Minnesota, shall be known and designated as the "Mayor William 'Bill' Sandberg 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 "Mayor William 'Bill' Sandberg Post Office Building".

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. Madam 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. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to Representative MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6229, which names the post office located at 2523 Seventh Avenue East in North St. Paul, Minnesota, after the late William "Bill" Sandberg, the longtime mayor of North St. Paul.

I want to thank the Oversight and Government Reform Committee for