

While I applaud everyone who worked so hard to help the Commonwealth cope and recover, the ice storms highlighted the dire need to make federal disaster assistance more effective and efficient following an emergency or natural disaster. For this reason, I am a co-sponsor of legislation to extend the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Pilot Program. The Public Assistance Pilot Program will enable FEMA and local officials to cut through bureaucratic red tape and distribute critical funds immediately following a storm or natural disaster.

In addition, while I am pleased that President Obama issued an emergency declaration for Kentucky so quickly following the storms, I continue to call on FEMA to pay 100 percent of the costs for repair and clean-up. Nearly 3 months after these storms hit the Commonwealth, debris removal and clean up efforts are still ongoing. With local governments in Kentucky already facing significant budget shortfalls this year, the additional financial burden imposed by the ice storms is simply too much for our counties and towns to bear. It is essential that FEMA step up to the plate and ensure that local officials have the funds and resources they need to clean up and rebuild.

I'd like to thank Congressman BRETT GUTHRIE for his leadership in bringing this Resolution to the floor today as well as all my fellow Members of the Kentucky Congressional Delegation. Too often leaders and hard working citizens of our local communities go without recognition for the good work they do. It is my privilege to be able to honor all those who volunteered their time, donated supplies, worked weekends and overtime hours in an effort to restore power and all those who assisted in the clean-up following the storms. On behalf of the people of Kentucky and all those impacted by the storms, I thank you.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the countless number of volunteers who made a difference and helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from the devastating ice storm of January 2009.

On January 26, 2009, the Commonwealth of Kentucky suffered a catastrophic ice storm that left more than 700,000 homes and businesses without electricity and tragically claimed the lives of over 30 Kentuckians. This is the worst natural disaster in the history of the Bluegrass State.

Together, State and local municipalities organized relief efforts by coordinating volunteer agencies, faith-based groups and community organizations. This quick action made the difference for the hundreds of thousands that were stranded across the Commonwealth.

Total, volunteers hailed from 25 organizations in 15 States, operated 192 shelters for victims, distributed more than 378,160 meals, and provided 7,884 Kentuckians with shelter, food and water. Furthermore, 4,600 members of the Kentucky National Guard were activated and helped the Bluegrass State recover.

I also rise to commend the courage of the citizens of Kentucky and the bravery and kindness demonstrated from the volunteers who took the time to help the Bluegrass State recover from the destructive ice storm of 2009.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of House Resolution 214.

With no additional speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague to ask all of our colleagues to join us in supporting Resolution 214 recognizing the citizens of Kentucky.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 214.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SERGEANT MARCUS MATHES POST OFFICE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1516) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 37926 Church Street in Dade City, Florida, as the "Sergeant Marcus Mathes Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1516

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

SECTION 1. SERGEANT MARCUS MATHES POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 37926 Church Street in Dade City, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant Marcus Mathes 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 "Sergeant Marcus Mathes Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. 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 Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over the United States Postal Service, I am pleased to present H.R. 1516 for consideration.

This legislation will designate the United States postal facility located at 37926 Church Street in Dade City, Florida, as the "Sergeant Marcus Mathes Post Office."

Introduced by my colleague, Representative GINNY BROWN-WAITE, on March 16, 2009, and reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform

Committee on April 2, 2009, by unanimous consent, H.R. 1516 enjoys the support of the entire Florida House delegation.

A resident of Zephyrhills, Florida, Sergeant Mathes bravely served with the 94th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Light Infantry Division out of Fort Polk, Louisiana. On April 28, 2008, Sergeant Mathes, at age 26, and two of his fellow soldiers were killed in Baghdad, Iraq, when enemy forces attacked their forward-operating base with indirect rocket fire.

Sergeant Mathes, a graduate of Zephyrhills High School, grew up in the City of Sebring in Highlands County and subsequently became a resident of Pasco County. Stirred by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Sergeant Mathes proudly joined the United States Army in 2005. He left for boot camp on March 15, 2005, the date of his 23rd birthday. Sergeant Mathes was then deployed in support of Operating Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan from October 2006 until March of 2007. Eight months later, in November of 2007, he was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As noted by his loving mother, Sue Sawyer, Sergeant Mathes was extremely proud of his duty. He genuinely appreciated the strangers who often approached him to thank him for his service to his country. According to his father, Ralph Mathes, his son loved the excitement, challenges and adventure associated with serving in the United States Army. His love of family and love of country were further evidenced by the tattoos on his body. Alongside the name of his beloved wife were two more tattoos, one reading "United States Army" and the other, the second, an emblem of the American bald eagle.

Sergeant Mathes was full of promise. Just prior to his death in April of 2008, he had passed his Sergeant's exam and has since been posthumously promoted. Additionally, having married his high school sweetheart, Julia, 6 years earlier, he anticipated starting a family.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Marcus Mathes' life stands as a testament to the bravery and dedication of the heroic men and women who continue to serve our country at home and abroad. It is my hope that we can further honor his service through the passage of this resolution.

And so I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1516 and dedicating the Church Street Post Office in Dade City, Florida, in honor of our fallen hero.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1516, naming the post office after Sergeant Marcus Mathes.

Army Sergeant Marcus C. Mathes was much more than a selfless and heroic soldier. He was a devoted husband

and lover of life and family. As his mother, Sue Sawyer, described him, he loved anything dangerous or thrilling. He was full of life. He loved life, and he lived it to the fullest.

Sergeant Mathes died on April 28, 2008, in Baghdad of wounds sustained when enemy forces attacked his forward-operating base with indirect fire. Also lost in the fight were Private First Class Adam L. Marion and Sergeant Mark A. Stone.

Sergeant Mathes was only 26 years old and hailed from Florida. He left for boot camp on his 23rd birthday on March 15, 2005, and was assigned to the 94th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Polk, Louisiana. He served in Afghanistan from October 2006 until March 2007 and left for Iraq in November of 2007.

Sergeant Mathes was a selfless hero who dedicated his life to being the best soldier he could possibly be. He is remembered by family and friends as someone who loved life and adventure and welcomed a challenge. He loved to hike to waterfalls, SCUBA dive and ride dirt bikes. His father-in-law, Chuck Ehrman, said that he will be remembered as fun-loving and the type to make everyone feel happy around him.

As a loving husband to his wife, Julia, as a son and patriot, Sergeant Mathes made the ultimate sacrifice in April of 2008 serving the country he loved.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill honoring a courageous young man who personified the noblest ideals of our great Nation. His lost life fighting for the freedom enjoyed by all of us, by loved ones back home and his sacrifice, shall not be forgotten.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

□ 1600

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And I also thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for the speedy consideration of this bill.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1516, which is the bill that I introduced to rename the post office in Dade City, Florida, after Sergeant Marcus Mathes. Marcus was a resident in my district who gave his life for his country while serving in Iraq.

Inspired by the events of September 11, Sergeant Mathes joined the Army and left for boot camp on his 23rd birthday. He was proud to serve and hoped to make a career out of his service in the Army.

Before serving in Iraq, Marcus was deployed to Afghanistan for a year and a half. He volunteered in not one, but two very dangerous war zones to pro-

tect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear.

While repairing an equipment truck outside Baghdad 1 year ago this week, Marcus was struck and killed by enemy rocket fire. His brother-in-law, who was on patrol with Marcus at the time, recovered his torn Bible from the battle scene, which gave his brother-in-law strength throughout his multiple tours.

Marcus leaves behind a young widow, Julia Mathes. All the people of Pasco County, where Dade City is located, mourn his passing. My heart goes out to this brave, young widow who stood behind her husband when he made the decision to serve our Nation in its time of need.

Julia remembers that she used to visit the Dade City Post Office to mail packages to her husband in Baghdad. By passing this bill, we can make sure that all who visit the post office will remember Marcus and the sacrifices that he made. I hope that the very simple act of renaming this building will memorialize Marcus' brave and selfless life.

Sergeant Mathes epitomized the courage and patriotism of our all-volunteer military, and we must never forget his sacrifice. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 1516.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I want to thank Ms. BROWN-WAITE for bringing this measure before the House. I urge all of my colleagues to unanimously support this bill, which would designate the post office in Dade City in memory of Sergeant Marcus Mathes.

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 Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1516.

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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. FOSTER) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

CERTIFICATION REGARDING EXPORT OF CERTAIN ITEMS TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-32)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261), I hereby certify to the Congress that the export of one continuous mixer to be used to manufacture conductive polymer compounds to be further processed to make circuit protection devices, one jet mill to be used for particle size reduction of pigments and other powder products for cosmetic formulations, and one filament winding cell to be used to manufacture fiberglass assembly shelter poles for use in tents and shelters is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from these exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 21, 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 388, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 411, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1219, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

CRANE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 388, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 388.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 288, nays 116, not voting 27, as follows: