

his service as an athletic goodwill ambassador to our close ally, Japan, for the past 37 years.

Happy birthday, Jesse. Thank you for your many accomplishments, and good luck in your future endeavors.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield all the time that she may want to consume to the chief sponsor of this bill, my good friend, the gentlelady from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO).

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman for yielding time and for being an original cosponsor of my bill, along with my colleague NEIL ABERCROMBIE. I would also like to thank the previous speaker for his very kind and knowledgeable remarks, and you pronounced his name correctly, too, which is wonderful. Thank you.

H. Res. 479 recognizes the contributions of Jesse Kuhaulua, known professionally as Takamiyama Daigoro, a trailblazer in the sport of sumo wrestling. Maui born and a graduate of Baldwin High School in Wailuku, Jesse made his debut as an aspirant in Japan's national sport in the winter of 1964 in Osaka. At the time he knew little of the Japanese language and the subtleties of the sport itself. In this initial test, he wondered if his stay in Japan would be counted in weeks or months. Today Takamiyama Daigoro will retire from a 45-year long sumo career filled with historic milestones. This marks the day before his 65th birthday when senior members of the sport must retire. Takamiyama Daigoro was the first United States-born wrestler to enter the sport of sumo. In 1972 he became the first foreigner to win the Emperor's Cup, a top division championship in the sport. He was also the first foreign-born wrestler to climb to sumo's third-highest rank of *sekiwake*. Takamiyama also stands as the only foreigner to open his own *heya*, or stable, in order to train future generations in the sport after he stopped actively competing himself. Takamiyama opened the door for others from Hawaii to join him in this most ancient of sports. This group includes Saleva'a Atisano'e, also known as Konishiki, who became the first foreigner to reach the second-highest rank of *ozeki*; Chad Rowen, also known as Akebono, who became the first foreigner to hold the highest rank of sumo, that of *yokozuna*; and Fiamalu Penitani, also known as Musashimaru, who became the second foreigner to hold the title of *yokozuna*. Today foreigners from other countries, such as Mongolia, Russia and Georgia, have attained higher rankings and remarkable acclaim in this most ancient of Japanese sports.

I urge my colleagues to support this recognition of Jesse Kuhaulua, a true ambassador of the aloha spirit.

Mahalo nui loa.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Will the gentlelady yield?

Ms. HIRONO. I yield to the gentleman from American Samoa.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend and thank my good friend, my colleague from Hawaii, for sharing with us her statement concerning these outstanding athletes. It may be known to my colleagues in the House, but just to give you an indication of what these gentlemen look like—Takamiyama, he is about 6'4", and he weighed 350 pounds at the height of his ability to do sumo wrestling; Konishiki, who happens to be a relative of mine, weighed only 560 pounds, and he was about 6'0" in height; Akebono, Chad Rowens, is about 6'8", and he weighed almost 500 pounds and so was Musashimaru, both *yokozunas*, which is the highest level of the championship in Japanese sumo wrestling. Musashimaru, Fiamalu Penitani, was about 6'4" and weighed almost 500 pounds as well. Don't be misled by the fact that these gentlemen may be heavy. They say that in sumo wrestling, with one little push or shove from one arm, they can literally hurt you. I've personally seen the training that these gentlemen go through, about 6 or 7 hours a day, in building their—and they have to do the splits. So believe it or not, these gentlemen can do the splits just like you would in doing ballet dancing, if you will, in terms of the conditioning and the ability that they have to really strengthen themselves when they go to the mat and conduct this ancient sport of sumo wrestling.

Again, I do want to thank my good friend, the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. I would like to note in closing that a very famous singer, who sadly has passed away, named Israel Kamakawiwo'ole wrote a wonderful song about our Hawaiian sumo wrestlers, calling them gentle giants.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I also want to note to the gentlelady that Konishiki and I had prepared one of our relatives who was about 18 years old, is only about 6'10", and he weighed 450 pounds. For one whole year, we tried to get him into sumo wrestling; and unfortunately, the Sumo Federation refused to allow more Polynesians to participate in this ancient sport of wrestling.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I also want to again thank my good friend for her sponsorship and the many sponsors of this important resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 479.

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.

#### LAREDO VETERANS POST OFFICE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 2325) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1300 Matamoros Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "Laredo Veterans Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2325

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

#### SECTION 1. LAREDO VETERANS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1300 Matamoros Street in Laredo, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Laredo Veterans 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 "Laredo Veterans Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam 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. I now yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to present for consideration H.R. 2325, which is legislation to designate the United States postal facility located at 1300 Matamoros Street in Laredo, Texas, as the Laredo Veterans Post Office. Introduced by my colleague Representative HENRY CUELLAR of Texas on May 7, 2009, and reported out of the Oversight Committee by unanimous consent on June 4, 2009, H.R. 2325 enjoys the support of the entire Texas House congressional delegation. As evidenced by the short title of the bill, the legislation before us seeks to pay tribute to all the brave men and women from the city of Laredo, Texas, as well as the State of Texas and across the United States who have served our Nation in the United States military both at home and abroad. Over 23 million American military veterans are currently living in the United States, including nearly 2 million veterans living in the State of Texas alone. These fine Americans as well as those that are no longer with us have devoted their lives to the defense and security of our Nation, notwithstanding the great personal risk and sacrifice they must endure. We are eternally in their debt and forever grateful for their noble and selfless dedication to our Nation and the preservation of its founding principles.

Madam Speaker, I again want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr.

CUELLAR) for being the lead sponsor of this legislation and offering such a thoughtful and considerate measure in honor of his constituents. With that, let us also pay tribute to the distinguished service of our veterans from the city of Laredo, from the State of Texas and across the Nation by designating the Laredo Post Office in their honor. I urge my colleagues to join me and Representative CUELLAR in supporting H.R. 2325.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Today I urge passage of the bill designating the facility of the United States Postal Service in Laredo, Texas, as the Laredo Veterans Post Office.

Madam Speaker, the deeds, accomplishments and the many services of the individuals of Texas who have served our Armed Forces are written in the archives of American history. Their deeds and these military personnel occupy an important role in our own history; and in this regard, the citizens of Texas and the city of Laredo set a high standard for courage and for service for those of us in this country. Today I ask that we honor these brave Texans for their service and commitment and heroism in defense of America, thus designating the United States post office in Laredo in their honor.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, at this time I would like to yield 5 minutes to the lead sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. CUELLAR. Thank you, Mr. LYNCH. I appreciate the leadership that you've shown not only on this bill but on the committee also. We thank you for the work that you've done. Mr. BILBRAY, thank you also for the work that you've done; and thank you, again, for serving in a bipartisan way on the Oversight Committee.

I rise in support of H.R. 2325 to name the post office at 1300 Matamoros Street in Laredo, Texas, as the Laredo Veterans Post Office. When you look at the history of Texas, the State of Texas, the city of Laredo, you will see that in that history, the veterans have played a very important role.

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The veterans of Laredo, Texas, have served in a very distinguished way in many of the wars we have had. Many of them have sacrificed in World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War and Korea, and in other conflicts we have had, up to the latest war we have.

I think it is only appropriate that we name the post office, which is in front of a plaza where it is also recognized as a way that we have recognized the veterans. It is placed in an appropriate place.

Madam Speaker, I would ask Members to please join me in support of H.R. 2325, where we name the post office at 1300 Matamoros Street after the

brave men and women that we have in Laredo, to be named as the Laredo Veterans Post Office.

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

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I just urge our colleagues to join with Congressman CUELLAR in naming this post office in memory and in honor of our United States and Texas veterans.

With that, I yield back the balance of our 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. 2325.

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. LYNCH. Madam 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.

#### KYLE G. WEST POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2422) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 702 East University Avenue in Georgetown, Texas, as the "Kyle G. West Post Office Building", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2422

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

#### SECTION 1. KILE G. WEST POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Scenic Drive in Georgetown, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Kile G. West 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 "Kile G. West Post Office Building".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

Madam Speaker, as chairman of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over the United States Postal Service, I am pleased to present H.R. 2422, as amended, for consideration this afternoon.

The bill before us will designate the United States postal facility located at 702 East University Avenue in Georgetown, Texas, as the "Kyle G. West Post Office Building." Introduced by our colleague Representative JOHN CARTER of Texas on May 14, 2009, and reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on June 4th, 2009, by unanimous consent, H.R. 2422 enjoys the support of the entire Texas House delegation.

A resident of Hutto, Texas, First Lieutenant Kyle G. West bravely served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the United States Army's 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, out of Fort Hood, Texas.

On Memorial Day, May 28, 2007, First Lieutenant West and four fellow members of his unit were killed in Abu Sayda, Iraq, when their Bradley Fighting Vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. The soldiers had been out on a rescue mission in support of comrades who had been downed in a helicopter.

After graduating in 2001 from Hutto High School in Texas, First Lieutenant West attended Blinn College and subsequently received a degree in business management from Stephen F. Austin State University in 2005.

In pursuit of his lifelong dream to serve in the United States military, First Lieutenant West joined the ROTC program at Stephen F. Austin as a junior, and eventually rose to sergeant in the Texas National Guard out of Lufkin, Texas. Included among Kyle's National Guard duties were assisting in the Columbia shuttle recovery efforts in 2003, as well as serving in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina. Kyle was commissioned into the United States Army as a second lieutenant on the eve of his college graduation ceremony and subsequently deployed to Iraq on October 3, 2006.

In addition to his dedication to his unit and his country, Kyle is equally remembered for his devotion to his family and to his friends. As recalled in a May 31, 2007, article in the Austin American-Statesman, Kyle was a devoted son, a protective big brother, and a loyal friend who is still known in his old neighborhood for rounding up friends to take care of a local grackle problem while all the adults were at work.

Mr. Speaker, First Lieutenant Kyle West's life stands as a testament to the bravery and devotion of the heroic men and women who have served and continue to serve our Nation at home and abroad. It is my sincere hope that we can honor this young soldier through the passage of H.R. 2422 and rename the Georgetown, Texas, postal facility as