

HONORING CATHOLIC SISTERS

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 441) honoring the historical contributions of Catholic sisters in the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 441

Whereas the social, cultural, and political contributions of Catholic sisters have played a vital role in shaping life in the United States;

Whereas such women have joined in unique forms of intentional communitarian life dedicated to prayer and service since the very beginnings of our Nation's history, fearlessly and often sacrificially committing their personal lives to teaching, healing, and social action;

Whereas the first Catholic sisters to live and work in the United States were nine Ursuline Sisters, who journeyed from France to New Orleans in 1727;

Whereas at least nine sisters from the United States have been martyred since 1980 while working for social justice and human rights overseas;

Whereas Maura Clark, MM, Ita Ford, MM, and Dorothy Kazel, OSU were martyred in El Salvador in 1980;

Whereas Joel Kolmer, ASC, Shirley Kolmer, ASC, Kathleen McGuire, ASC, Agnes Mueller, ASC, and Barbara Ann Muttra, ASC were martyred in Liberia in 1992;

Whereas Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN was martyred in Brazil in 2005;

Whereas Catholic sisters established the Nation's largest private school system and founded more than 110 United States colleges and universities, educating millions of young people in the United States;

Whereas there were approximately 32,000 Catholic sisters in the United States who taught 400,000 children in 2,000 parochial schools by 1880, and there were 180,000 Catholic sisters who taught nearly 4,500,000 children by 1965;

Whereas today, there are approximately 59,000 Catholic sisters in the United States;

Whereas Catholic sisters participated in the opening of the West, traveling vast distances to minister in remote locations, setting up schools and hospitals, and working among native populations on distant reservations;

Whereas more than 600 sisters from 21 different religious communities nursed both Union and Confederate soldiers alike during the Civil War;

Whereas Catholic sisters cared for afflicted populations during the epidemics of cholera, typhoid, yellow fever, smallpox, tuberculosis, and influenza during the 19th and early 20th centuries;

Whereas Catholic sisters built and established hospitals, orphanages, and charitable institutions that have served millions of people, managing organizations long before similar positions were open to women;

Whereas approximately one in six hospital patients in the United States were treated in a Catholic facility;

Whereas Catholic sisters have been among the first to stand with the underprivileged, to work and educate among the poor and underserved, and to facilitate leadership through opportunity and example;

Whereas Catholic sisters continue to provide shelter, food, and basic human needs to the economically or socially disadvantaged and advocate relentlessly for the fair and equal treatment of all persons;

Whereas Catholic sisters work for the eradication of poverty and racism and for the promotion of nonviolence, equality, and democracy in principle and in action;

Whereas the humanitarian work of Catholic sisters with communities in crisis and refuge throughout the world positions them as activists and diplomats of peace and justice for the some of the most at risk populations; and

Whereas the Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America Traveling Exhibit is sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in association with Cincinnati Museum Center and will open on May 16, 2009, in Cincinnati, Ohio: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors and commends Catholic sisters for their humble service and courageous sacrifice throughout the history of this Nation; and

(2) supports the goals of the Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America Traveling Exhibit, a project sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in association with Cincinnati Museum Center and established to recognize the historical contributions of Catholic sisters in the United States.

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, on behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to present House Resolution 441 for consideration. This legislation honors and commends Catholic sisters for their humble service and courageous sacrifice throughout United States history and additionally supports the goals of the "Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America" traveling exhibit.

The measure before us was introduced on May 14, 2009 by my colleague and friend, Representative MARCY KAPTUR of Ohio, and was favorably reported out of the Oversight Committee on September 10, 2009 by unanimous consent. Notably, this measure enjoys the support of over 60 Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 441 honors the altruistic Catholic sisters, whose passion for public service has helped shape our Nation's social and cultural landscape. Since arriving in the United States almost 300 years ago, Catholic sisters have established schools, colleges, hospitals, orphanages, homeless shelters, and various other institutions to provide for those in need. These unsung heroes have served millions of Americans as nurses,

as teachers, social workers, and they continue to do so today. The Catholic sisters have also helped to educate countless young Americans by establishing the Nation's largest private school system and founding over 110 colleges and universities.

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Moreover, in 2005 roughly one in six hospital patients in the United States was treated in a Catholic facility. There are many, many accomplishments which I could cite in support of this resolution and of this traveling exhibit, but I think it's important to note just a few:

The first Catholic sisters in our country to live and work here in the service of our people were nine Ursuline Sisters who journeyed from France to New Orleans in 1727. At least nine sisters of the United States' orders have been martyred since 1980 while working for social justice and for human rights overseas. Dorothy Stang, sister of Notre Dame, was martyred in Brazil in 2005.

There were 32,000 Catholic sisters in the United States who taught 400,000 children at 2,000 parochial schools by the year 1880. There were 180,000 Catholic sisters who taught nearly 4.5 million children in 1965. Today, there are approximately 59,000 Catholic sisters still serving in the United States.

I owe much of my own education to the good sisters of Notre Dame, who taught me the fear of God, and I am forever in their debt. I ask all of our Members to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 441, honoring the Catholic sisters in the United States, who have contributed greatly to the Catholic church and to the communities where they have lived and worked.

The first Catholic sisters to live in the United States came from France in 1727 and settled in New Orleans. From this small beginning, their presence and contributions to society grew over the years. Today, there are about 59,000 Catholic sisters in the United States. Although their numbers have decreased over the years, their influence is strong and vital.

Catholic sisters founded, staffed and managed the largest private school system in the United States. They founded more than 110 colleges and universities in the United States, thus providing educational opportunity for millions of young people. In addition to schools, the Catholic sisters established hospitals, orphanages and other charitable institutions that have served millions of Americans.

Catholic sisters have long been recognized for their fair and equal treatment of all persons. They have worked tirelessly for the eradication of racism and poverty in the United States and around the world.

In recognition of the women who have added substantially to the lives of many of our citizens, I stand to recognize the Catholic sisters for their untiring dedication and for their many contributions to the fabric of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my friends on both sides of the aisle to take a moment to recognize the priceless contributions of the Catholic sisters in America and to thank them for their humble service and courageous sacrifices throughout United States history by agreeing to House Resolution 441.

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. 441, as amended.

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. 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.

JOHN J. SHIVNEN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2215) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 140 Merriman Road in Garden City, Michigan, as the "John J. Shivnen Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2215

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

SECTION 1. JOHN J. SHIVNEN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 140 Merriman Road in Garden City, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the "John J. Shivnen 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 "John J. Shivnen Post Office Building".

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 in 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 yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over the United States Postal Service, I am pleased to present H.R. 2215 for consideration. This legislation will designate the United States Postal facility located at 140 Merriman Road in Garden City, Michigan, as the "John J. Shivnen Post Office Building."

Introduced on April 30, 2009, by my colleague, Representative THAD MCCOTTER of Michigan, H.R. 2215 was favorably reported out of the Oversight Committee on September 10, 2009, by unanimous consent. Additionally, this legislation enjoys the support of the entire sitting Michigan delegation.

Mr. Speaker, the dedication of the Garden City Post Office in honor of John J. Shivnen is particularly fitting in light of Mr. Shivnen's dedicated and unparalleled service to the United States Postal Service and to his beloved Garden City community.

Specifically, Mr. Shivnen served as the postmaster of Garden City for 30 years until his retirement in 1996. In addition, Mr. Shivnen was an active member of the National Association of Postmasters of the United States for over 40 years, during which time he served in multiple leadership capacities, including area and county director, legislative chairman, parliamentarian, and postmaster representative. Moreover, Mr. Shivnen played an instrumental role with respect to the site selection and construction of the current Garden City Post Office.

In addition to his professional contributions to the Garden City community, Mr. Shivnen also demonstrated a lifelong commitment to community service. During his stewardship of the Garden City Post Office, Mr. Shivnen established an annual Christmas Basket program through which disadvantaged local families received much needed gift and food donations. Mr. Shivnen was also a dedicated member of the Garden City Lions Club service organization. Following his retirement, he remained an active member of several other community groups until his health no longer allowed him to continue.

Notably, among Mr. Shivnen's last community service projects was the creation of a replica of a rural post office located at the Garden City Historical Museum. In support of this effort, Mr. Shivnen purchased a majority of the replica items, performed much of the restoration work himself, and even paid for a portion of the contract work.

In recognition of Mr. Shivnen's contributions to the project, which was completed shortly before his passing, the Garden City Historical Museum Board honored Mr. Shivnen's legacy by hosting his wake at the museum. Regrettably, Mr. Shivnen passed away in January of 2007.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that we can honor his lifelong commitment to public and community service through the passage of this legislation to designate the Garden City Post Office in his honor. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2215.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2215, a resolution to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service, located at 140 Merriman Road in Garden City, Michigan, as the "John J. Shivnen Post Office Building." I also commend Representative MCCOTTER for bringing this forward to this body.

A graduate of Garden City High School, John Shivnen believed in hard work, humility and community service, and he lived with these three qualities in mind throughout his life.

Appointed postmaster as a young man, Mr. Shivnen served for 30 years, making him the longest-serving postmaster in Garden City. As postmaster, he was actively involved in the site selection and construction of the current Garden City Post Office. He was also an active member of the National Association of Postmasters of the U.S. for 41 years, serving in numerous leadership positions.

Mr. Shivnen's passion for community service was shown through his many efforts to help the community where he spent most of his life. He established the Garden City Post Office annual Christmas Basket program, and was an active member of the Garden City Lions Club.

Generous and compassionate, Mr. Shivnen's deep commitment to his community did not end after his retirement in 1996. He volunteered at the local senior center as a handyman, and his last large community project was his creation of a replica of a rural post office for the Garden City Historical Museum. Purchasing most of the replica items and working with others, the project continued until his declining health prevented him from leaving his home.

His dedication and service for his community is exemplary, and it is fitting to name the post office in Garden City, Michigan, in his honor.

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I again urge my colleagues to support Mr. MCCOTTER and us in honoring Mr. John J. Shivnen through the passing of H.R. 2215. I yield back the remainder 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. 2215.

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. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum