

in the rolling hills of the Palouse region, Washington State University, in Pullman, Washington, is the State's largest land-grant university and offers over 200 areas of study. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Honors College.

Originally established in 1960 under the direction of Professor Sidney Hacker, the Washington State University's Honors College provides highly motivated and highly capable students the opportunity to challenge themselves through an enriched 4-year curriculum. The Honors College emphasizes six specific learning goals throughout its program, including critical and creative thinking, quantitative and symbolic reasoning, information literacy, communication, self in society, and disciplinary knowledge.

The Honors College at WSU has produced thousands of entrepreneurs, scientists, doctors, and educators. Regardless of their profession or status, a graduate of WSU's Honors College has the tools to make a difference wherever life may lead them. For instance, Captain Amos Peterson of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps is a WSU Honors College graduate and has been officer-in-charge of Andrews Air Force Base veterinary clinic since 2008. Captain Peterson's sister, Ella, is also an Honor's College alumnus, and after completing service in the U.S. Peace Corps, has become an English teacher in Taiwan. These two examples are indicative of the successful students that graduate from the Honors College at WSU.

Madam Speaker, the Washington State University Honors College is one of the most respected in the Nation, and it is wholly fitting that this House applaud its past and most certain future successes. I urge my colleagues to join me in adopting H. Res. 1163, recognizing WSU's Honors College for 50 years of excellence.

Ms. HIRONO. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I also rise in support of House Resolution 1163, recognizing Washington State University's Honors College for 50 years of excellence. For 50 years, the Washington State University Honors College has offered an enriched liberal arts curriculum with an international context. Undergraduates seeking challenges can optimize their academic experience; and they're known for accomplishments in undergraduate research, leadership skills, and service to their local, national, and international communities.

□ 1430

The honors thesis allows students to develop their own mentored undergraduate research project. Scholarship support is available to help cover college expenses, undergraduate research, and study abroad thanks to the support from the Honors' alumni and friends.

Students from any major may follow the Honors curriculum and expect to graduate in 4 years because the curriculum works within each student's major. All coursework at Washington State University Honors College is designed to promote the six learning goals of the Honors College.

Washington State University Honors College is an accomplished institution that contributes to the economic and civic vitality of the State, Nation, and world. Today we congratulate the faculty, staff, students, and alumni for 50 years of excellence.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. Once again, I urge my colleagues to vote for H. Res. 1163, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1163.

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. HIRONO. 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.

AUTHORIZING NEW AWARD PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL WORKERS

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2377) to direct the Secretary of Education to establish and administer an awards program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2377

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) The term "classified school employee" refers to employees working in pre-kindergarten through higher education, in the following nine job families:

- (A) Paraprofessionals.
- (B) Clerical services.
- (C) Custodial and maintenance services.
- (D) Transportation services.
- (E) Food services.
- (F) Skilled trades.
- (G) Health and student services.
- (H) Security services.
- (I) Technical services.

(2) Classified school employees provide valuable service to public schools in the United States.

(3) Classified school employees provide essential services, such as transportation, facilities maintenance and operations, food service, safety, and health care.

(4) Classified school employees play a vital role in providing for the welfare and safety of students.

(5) Classified school employees strive for excellence in all areas of service to the education community.

(6) Exemplary classified school employees should be recognized for their outstanding contributions to quality education in the United States.

SEC. 2. RECOGNITION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education shall establish and administer a national recognition program to be known as the "National Classified School Employees of the Year Awards". The purpose of the program shall be to recognize and promote the commitment and excellence exhibited by employees within certain occupational specialties in public schools who provide exemplary service to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education.

(b) OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The occupational specialties referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

- (A) Paraprofessionals.
- (B) Clerical and administrative services.
- (C) Transportation services.
- (D) Food and nutrition services.
- (E) Custodial and maintenance services.
- (F) Security services.
- (G) Health and student services.
- (H) Technical services.
- (I) Skilled trades.

(2) NUMBER OF AWARDS.—Prior to March 31 of each year (beginning with the second calendar year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act), the Secretary shall select an employee from each occupational specialty described in paragraph (1) to receive an award under the recognition program.

(c) SELECTION PROCESS.—

(1) NOMINATION PROCESS.—Not later than November 1 of each year (beginning with the first calendar year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act), the Secretary shall solicit nominations from each occupational specialty described in subsection (b)(1) from the chief State school officer of each State. The chief State school officer of each State shall consider nominations submitted by the following:

- (A) Local educational agencies.
- (B) School administrators.
- (C) Professional associations.
- (D) Labor unions.
- (E) Any other group determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(2) DEMONSTRATION.—Each nomination shall be submitted to the Secretary by a chief State school officer in such manner as the Secretary may require and shall contain, at a minimum, demonstrations of excellence in the following areas:

- (A) Work performance.
- (B) School and community involvement.
- (C) Leadership and commitment.
- (D) Local support.
- (E) Enhancement of classified school employees' image in the community and schools.

(F) Any other area of superior performance, such as health and safety promotion or efficient use of energy or other resources.

(3) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall develop uniform national guidelines for evaluating nominations submitted under paragraph (2) in order to select the most deserving nominees based on the demonstrations made in the areas described in such paragraph.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—The terms used in this Act shall have the meaning given such terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H.R. 2377 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

Ms. HIRONO. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2377, which is a bill that establishes a National Classified School Employees of the Year Award.

Every day in schools across the country, there are people working hard to make sure our students have an opportunity to learn and succeed. Classified school employees are critical to this effort. They work as paraprofessionals: clerks, custodians, bus drivers, cooks, maintenance employees, nurses, security guards, and technicians. The work they do provides essential support to students and teachers, and for far too long, their contributions have gone unrecognized at a national level. H.R. 2377 will change this and create a National Classified School Employees of the Year Award.

The award will honor and recognize excellence in the classified school worker field. Their services vary widely, from establishing and promoting a high-quality instructional environment as paraeducators and library aides to providing other essential services, such as transportation, skilled maintenance, food and support services, and health care.

I'm sure we can all remember our favorite bus driver who provided our safe arrival to and from school. We can recall the nurse that perfectly bandaged our scraped knee, or we can reflect on a guidance counselor who helped us navigate our paths to college.

No matter the profession, classified school employees work tirelessly to ensure the success of America's students and public schools. Their dedication ensures the safety and welfare of students while improving the educational atmosphere, helping students meet the highest educational standards.

Today we recognize this work and thank them. I ask that you join us in support of this bill. I urge my colleagues to recognize the contributions of classified school employees by voting for H.R. 2377.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 2377, to direct the Secretary of Education to establish and administer an awards program recognizing excellence exhib-

ited by public school system employees, providing services to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education. In short, this bill would create a national recognition program for classified school employees in nine categories, including transportation, food, security, and health and student services.

As you may well know, classified school employees provide the support services necessary to keep our Nation's schools open and running on time. These awards would be given annually by the Secretary of Education. Despite the fact that a school's support staff is often overlooked, they are an important part of the education team that we entrust our children to each day. These school employees provide transportation services that enable students to safely arrive to and from school, prepare and serve the food students eat each day, and keep the school facilities in which students learn clean and safe. Those classified school employees who go above and beyond deserve to be recognized for their efforts, and this bill would do just that.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2377.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), the sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2377, a bill to establish a National Classified School Employees of the Year Award.

For teachers to teach and students to learn, schools must be well maintained; students must be kept healthy and safe; and all of the adults with whom students interact throughout their day, whether on the playground or in the lunch room, must support a school's culture of excellence.

Classified employees help to create and maintain an atmosphere that fosters achievement by working tirelessly to ensure the success of our Nation's students in public schools, colleges, and universities. They provide essential services, including transportation, facilities maintenance and operations, food service, safety, health care, and others. Whether they are in the classroom alongside teachers, helping to establish and promote a high-quality instructional environment, or in a bus, making sure that students arrive at school on time so they are ready to learn, these classified employees play a vital role in our schools, and they should be recognized for the outstanding work that they do.

There are approximately 2.8 million education support professionals across the country, yet too often their contributions go unrecognized. And that is why I am so pleased to have worked with you, Madam Speaker, as the lead sponsor of H.R. 2377, a bill that would establish a National Classified School Employees of the Year Award, and I am proud that this legislation has 57 bipartisan supporters and cosponsors.

This award would be very similar to the Teacher of the Year Award but would recognize outstanding public school employees who provide support services to students from pre-kindergarten through their education in nine different categories: paraprofessionals, clerical services, custodial and maintenance services, transportation services, food services, skilled trades, health and students services, security services, and technical services.

The Secretary of Education will solicit nominations from the States in each of these occupational specialties. Nominees must demonstrate excellence in work performance, school and community involvement, leadership and commitment, local support, enhancement of classified school employees' image in the community and the school, and any other area of superior performance that is determined by the Secretary. The award winners will then be recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the President.

Let me be clear, this is not a new government program, and honoring these special employees will not cost the government any money. Nor would this be the first time that government agencies have presented such awards to individuals who make important contributions. Both the Department of Defense and the Department of Commerce currently give such awards.

Honoring our classified school employees will provide the recognition and appreciation they deserve for the important work they do every day on the front lines to help our students succeed. As Booker T. Washington said, "Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way."

So I urge my colleagues to reward the uncommon excellence of classified school employees by supporting H.R. 2377.

Mrs. BIGGERT. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, once again, I want to commend my colleague, Ms. TITUS, for bringing this bill forward, and reminding us that it truly takes many, many hands and hearts to enable our students to succeed. Again, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2377.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, as an original cosponsor of H.R. 2377, I rise in strong support of the passage of this bill. H.R. 2377 would create an annual award program to honor the great work classified school employees do for our schools every day.

Classified school employees serve an important role in schools and help ensure students get the best possible education. Paraeducators, bus drivers, food service employees, and many other support staff help make the school day run smoothly. It is high time we honor their contributions by creating an annual award program that will honor the key role they play in promoting and ensuring student achievement, student safety and well-being.

I look forward to working with the National Association of Classified School Employees and other education groups to continue to

honor the important work of School Classified Employees. Again, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. HIRONO. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2377.

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.

SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER R. HRBEK POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4628) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 Westwood Avenue in Westwood, New Jersey, as the "Sergeant Christopher R. Hrbek Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4628

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

SECTION 1. SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER R. HRBEK POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 Westwood Avenue in Westwood, New Jersey, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant Christopher R. Hrbek 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 "Sergeant Christopher R. Hrbek Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) 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 and add any extraneous materials.

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.

Madam Speaker, as chairman of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over the United States Postal Service, I am proud to present H.R. 4628 for consideration. This legislation, when passed, will designate the United States Postal Service facility located at 216 Westwood Avenue in Westwood, New Jersey, as the Sergeant Christopher R. Hrbek Post Office Building. Introduced by my friend and colleague

Representative SCOTT GARRETT of New Jersey on February 22, 2009, H.R. 4628 was favorably reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on March 4, 2010, by unanimous consent. In addition, this legislation enjoys the support of the entire New Jersey House delegation.

A native of Westwood, New Jersey, Sergeant Christopher Hrbek proudly served our Nation as a field artillery cannoner with the Third Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division, Second Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Regrettably, Sergeant Hrbek was killed in action on January 14, 2010, by an improvised explosive device while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Sergeant Hrbek was 25 years old at the time of his death and on his fourth tour of duty with the United States Marine Corps.

As recalled by his family and friends, Sergeant Hrbek's enlistment in the United States Marine Corps evidenced his lifelong dedication to serving his community and his country.

At the age of 16, Sergeant Hrbek, who came from a family of firefighters, joined the Westwood Fire Department as a cadet and continued to serve his local community as a firefighter for the next 9 years. In addition to his dedication to the Westwood Fire Department and the town of Westwood, Sergeant Hrbek also aspired to serve in the United States military, and in particular, the United States Marine Corps. As noted by his loving stepfather Jaymee Hodges, Sergeant Hrbek "knew in his soul he wanted to be a Marine . . . and Christopher ate, drank, and slept the Marine Corps."

□ 1445

Accordingly, on his 18th birthday, Sergeant Hrbek asked his stepfather to take him to the Marine recruitment office in Hackensack, New Jersey, in order to enlist in the Marine Corps. Shortly thereafter, Sergeant Hrbek left for basic training at Paris Island, South Carolina. Sergeant Hrbek's subsequent and distinguished career in the United States Marine Corps included four tours of duty, three tours of duty in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and then most recently, his last tour of duty in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In recognition of his service and sacrifice on behalf of our grateful Nation, Sergeant Hrbek has been posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

Additionally, Sergeant Hrbek has also posthumously received the Bronze Star with Valor device. This was awarded for his heroic service during combat operations several weeks before his death. Specifically, in December of 2009, in the midst of hostile gunfire, Sergeant Hrbek rushed to save the life of a fellow marine, Sergeant Major Raymond Mackey, who had lost his legs as a result of an improvised explosive device attack. Sergeant Hrbek and

a Navy corpsman carried Sergeant Major Mackey to safety and quickly applied tourniquets in order to stop the bleeding. This past Christmas Eve, Sergeant Hrbek was informed that he had been nominated for the Bronze Star with Valor device in recognition of that heroism.

In addition to the distinction and honor with which he served in the United States military, Sergeant Hrbek will be equally remembered for his steadfast devotion to his family and his friends. As noted by Westwood Fire Chief Mark Fedorchak, Sergeant Hrbek would do anything for anybody. He will be sorely missed. It is a huge loss for our community.

While Sergeant Hrbek is no longer with us, his memory will continue to live on through his devoted family and friends, his loving community and the dedicated servicemen and women who were fortunate to serve with him.

Madam Speaker, the life of Sergeant Christopher R. Hrbek stands as a testament to all the brave servicemen and women who have offered the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation.

Let us join with Congressman GARRETT from New Jersey and honor this outstanding soldier and American hero through the passage of this legislation to designate the Westwood Post Office in his name. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4628.

I reserve the balance of our time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my friend and colleague from New Jersey, the sponsor of this bill, Mr. GARRETT.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I do indeed rise today in honor of Sergeant Christopher Richard Hrbek, a recently fallen marine. It was on January 14, 2010, when Sergeant Hrbek gave his life in service of our country. And today, we have the opportunity to pay tribute to Sergeant Hrbek by considering H.R. 4628, this legislation that will rename the post office up in Westwood, New Jersey, in his honor.

In addition, though, to paying tribute to Sergeant Hrbek, I would like to pause for a moment to recognize his family as well, for the sacrifice that they now have endured on behalf of our Nation. Chris is survived by his wife, Jamie Lynn Wengerter, his mother and stepfather, Cheryl and James Hodges, his father and stepmother, Richard and Gail Hrbek, his two sisters, Amy Dellentash and Lori Hrbek, and his two stepbrothers, Jim and Beau Hodges, as well.

As was pointed out, Sergeant Hrbek was not only a hero in the armed services, he was a hero back in his hometown as well. Chris was born and raised up in Westwood, New Jersey, and as stated, at the age of 16, he, along with a couple of his friends, became cadets in the Westwood Fire Department.

And just as an aside, I remember going to the funeral and hearing the little stories that they told—even before they were 16 just pretending to be