

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."

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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

firemen and the like, and always wanting to be a fireman when they grew up. But at age 16 they were able to actually put that into action and become cadets in the Westwood Fire Department.

Chris saw every opportunity to serve as a chance to shine. This is why it was no surprise when he enlisted in the U.S. Marines in 2003. And as a marine, Sergeant Hrbek served four tours of duty, which included two combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. But it was indeed on December 23, 2009, when they were under heavy enemy fire that he saved a life, and it was of his own Sergeant Major, Sergeant Major Raymond Mackey.

As it was recounted later on to his family, Chris had been out on a patrol at that time when he heard an explosion about 10 paces behind him. Chris turned to see what it was, and he saw Sergeant Major Mackey badly wounded by the explosion.

So what did he do?

Well, he immediately turned his attention to Mackey, applying seven tourniquets and saving the Sergeant Major's life, and he did this all while under attack at the time. This is truly a definition of grace under fire. And for his valiant efforts Chris earned a Bronze Star with a Combat V. However, Chris was not able to ever receive that medal in person.

For it was on January 14 that Sergeant Chris Hrbek was killed on patrol in Helmand Province in Afghanistan after he encountered an IED. Hrbek's family posthumously accepted the Bronze Star on behalf of his life at his funeral. A letter was issued to his parents from the Marine Corps, and I think it really captured the sentiment that I know all America shares. It said, "by his zealous initiative, courageous actions, and exceptional dedication to duty, Sergeant Hrbek reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

After Chris died in combat he received a hero's welcome back in his hometown in Westwood, New Jersey. It was on January 20th, this year, that his flag-draped coffin passed through the streets of Westwood, which were lined as far as you could see with flags and residents and students all coming out who stood proudly, side by side, in a mass of people, to pay tribute to this young man.

Now, joining the procession were the Marines from Camp Lejeune who served alongside him. And one of the marines was Sergeant Ryan Harsman. Sergeant Harsman noted, When Chris walked into a room everyone knew that he was there. He just had that presence. He never ran out of fuel.

Now, the New York Fire Department also honored Chris and, this month, bestowed the title of honorary firefighter, because Sergeant Hrbek had been accepted to begin training with the fire department over in New York

City, but he deferred his enrollment twice so that he could continue his service to the U.S. Marines.

Sergeant Hrbek set the highest example, someone who was willing to risk his life to save the lives of others. And so I am proud to be the sponsor of H.R. 4628 honoring the life of Sergeant Hrbek.

And I, with my colleague, join all my colleagues here to support this legislation memorializing Chris and his service to his hometown of Westwood, New Jersey, where Christopher Hrbek will forever be remembered as a hero, as a heroic marine, a loving husband, a son and a brother as well.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers on this, but I continue to reserve.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I consume to close. Let me just say that Sergeant Christopher Hrbek died preserving the lives of his fellow soldiers and the freedom of this Nation. And I urge that we support this bill to honor that spirit of sacrifice of a true hero embodied by Sergeant Hrbek.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask all Members on both sides of the aisle to join with Mr. GARRETT in honoring this proud young marine and in supporting H.R. 4628.

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. 4628.

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.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NOWRUZ AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF IRANIAN-AMERICANS

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 267) recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz, expressing appreciation to Iranian-Americans for their contributions to society, and wishing Iranian-Americans and the people of Iran a prosperous new year.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 267

Whereas Nowruz marks the traditional Iranian New Year, which originated in ancient Persia, and dates back more than 3,000 years;

Whereas Nowruz, meaning a "New Day", occurs on the vernal equinox and celebrates the arrival of spring;

Whereas Nowruz symbolizes a time of renewal and community, it harkens the departure from the trials and tribulations of the previous year and brings hope for the New Year;

Whereas Nowruz is celebrated by nearly 300,000,000 Iranians and other peoples all over the world, including in the United States, Iran, and other countries in Central Asia, South Asia, Caucasus, Crimea, and Balkan Regions;

Whereas Nowruz is celebrated by more than 1,000,000 Iranian-Americans of all backgrounds, including those with Baha'i, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Zoroastrian, and non-religious backgrounds;

Whereas the people of Iran have a long history of celebrating Nowruz and are congratulated for their bringing in of the New Year;

Whereas Nowruz embodies the tradition that each individual's thinking, speaking, and conduct should always be virtuous, and the ideal of compassion for our fellow human beings regardless of ethnicity or religion, and symbolizes a time of renewal and community;

Whereas the United States is a melting pot of ethnicities and religion and Nowruz contributes the richness of American culture and is consistent with our founding principles of peace and prosperity for all;

Whereas in 539 B.C., Cyrus the Great established one of the earliest charters on human rights, which abolished slavery and allowed for freedom of religion, and this marker in Iranian history has had significant impact on the respect for human rights that Iranian-Americans carry today;

Whereas Nowruz serves to remind the United States of the many noteworthy and lasting contributions of Iranian-Americans to the social and economic fabric of society in the United States;

Whereas Iranian-Americans continue to make contributions in all sectors of American public life, including as government, military, and law enforcement officials working to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to protect all people in the United States;

Whereas Iranian-Americans are vibrant, peaceful, and law-abiding citizens, many of whom are Baha'i, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Zoroastrian faiths; and

Whereas the Iranian-American community continues to enrich the tapestry of the diversity in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz;

(2) expresses its appreciation for the contributions of Iranian-Americans to society in the United States in observance of Nowruz; and

(3) wishes Iranian-Americans and the people of Iran and all those who observe this holiday a prosperous new year.

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?