

is a truly worthy commitment. Simple and fun outdoor activities can have a great impact on our Nation's children and families.

Madam Speaker, once again, I express my support of H. Res. 860. I thank Representative QUIGLEY for bringing this bill forward, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 860, supporting the initiatives of Chicago Wilderness and the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

I want to commend the sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Chicago (Mr. QUIGLEY), for his leadership on this issue.

Most of us here today can remember ample time during our childhoods which was spent outdoors. In fact, to this very day, the child in me still enjoys hikes in the woods and tent-camping. In fact, for my wife, Leslie, and our two boys, T.J. and Tom, some of our most wonderful vacations have been tent-camping in our national parks throughout our great Nation.

Unfortunately, however, many children today do not have these same opportunities. Due to a lack of safe outdoor play areas, an abundance of video games and television time and, unfortunately, little encouragement to play outdoors, many children today do not experience the benefits of outdoor activities.

Research indicates that being active outdoors benefits children in countless ways. Active outdoor play has been shown to help children manage stress, to lower their blood pressure, and to help children develop cognitive skills.

The Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights encourages children to participate in outdoor activities and to explore opportunities—to discover the wilderness, to learn to swim, to follow a trail, and to explore other outdoor resources. The Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights highlights the importance of outdoor activities to the development and nourishment of children.

Our Nation boasts some of the world's most beautiful parks and natural monuments, an array of wildlife not found elsewhere, and abundant natural resources. Certainly, children should be encouraged to take advantage of these unique opportunities and resources.

For most of us, outdoor play was a regular part of growing up. Unfortunately, again, this is not true today. By supporting the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, we highlight the importance of children participating in outdoor activities. In doing so, we will bless not just our Nation's children but our Nation as a whole. Again, I am honored to support this resolution, and I urge a "yes" vote.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the

sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY).

Mr. QUIGLEY. I appreciate the remarks from the gentleman from Pennsylvania, and it bears truth that Philly fans and Cub fans can unite on common goals.

Madam Speaker, earlier this year, the House passed the No Child Left Inside Act, a bill and an initiative I support wholeheartedly. This past summer, following our congressional footsteps, the Illinois General Assembly proclaimed June "No Child Left Inside Month."

The Chicago Wilderness, a network of over 240 organizations statewide, makes giant strides to promote this initiative. The organization works to get more children outside, and it increases the amount and quality of the time they spend there. Children who grow up with an understanding of the land, air and water surrounding them grow into environmentally conscious adults, and it makes them more physically fit.

These individuals are people who are actively involved in efforts to clean, restore, and preserve our precious resources. The Chicago Wilderness knows this, and it works hard to better the lives and communities of everyone in the Chicago-land area. The Chicago Wilderness should be commended and recognized for their efforts to promote environmental literacy and healthy living.

I urge you to join me in support of this resolution on the House floor today. As it is my first resolution, I wish to thank my staff for their efforts.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, before I conclude, I would just reference that on a family visit to Chicago this past summer, we think of Chicago as an urban center and city, and what a wonderful city it is, but my boys also had the chance to fish in the Chicago River as part of a City of Chicago fishing program, encouraging just what we're talking about in this resolution, getting kids outdoors and enjoying the activities of the outdoors. The fish they caught in the Chicago River may not have been big, but they still caught some; and they remember that visit very well.

Again, I urge a "yes" vote, and I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for sponsoring this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to take a moment to voice my strong support for a bill offered by the gentleman from Illinois and my delegation colleague, Mr. QUIGLEY. H. Res. 860, supports two key environmental initiatives within Illinois: the Chicago Wilderness and the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

Chicago Wilderness is alliance of public and private organizations dedicated to promoting conservation and strengthening the natural ecosystems of the Chicago region. With over 240 members, the alliance includes government agencies, conservation organizations, scientific organizations, cultural institutions,

schools, universities, and business partners. A few such members with whom I have worked closely over the years include: Blacks in Chicago; the Chicago Park District; the Chicago Botanic Gardens; the Chicago Metropolitan Planning Agency; the Chicago Zoological Society; the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District; and the Village of Oak Park.

Chicago Wilderness has four long-term efforts: The Green Infrastructure Vision initiative promotes the creation and maintenance of green, open spaces; the Leave No Child Inside initiative promotes environmental education and experiences for children and youth; the Restoring the Health of Local Nature initiative engages in active restoration and land management to improve the health of natural areas as well as their plants and animals; and the Climate Change initiative involves examining, making recommendations, and taking action to limit the Chicago area's impact on global climate change.

The Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights is a joint resolution passed by the Illinois General Assembly to establish goals for children to experience nature. The Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights states that every child should have opportunities to ". . . discover wilderness—prairies, dunes, forests, savannas, and wetlands; camp under the stars; follow a trail; catch and release fish, frogs, and insects; climb a tree; explore nature in neighborhoods and cities; celebrate heritage; plant a flower; play in the mud or a stream; and learn to swim."

Understanding and interacting with nature are positive ways for children and youth to develop their minds and bodies. Outdoor play encourages independent learning and creativity and develops public awareness about the critical, interdependent relationship humans have with nature. As a child, I remember fondly the time I spent outside with my siblings, exploring my rural community, studying animals, and learning about nature. These experiences contributed to my appreciation of and commitment to improving the environment.

I join Mr. QUIGLEY in recognizing the importance of and supporting these two Illinois environmental initiatives—the Chicago Wilderness and the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

Mr. PLATTS. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 860, 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. KILDEE. 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.

E.V. WILKINS POST OFFICE

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

(H.R. 3892) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 West Highway 64 Bypass in Roper, North Carolina, as the "E.V. Wilkins Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3892

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

**SECTION 1. E.V. WILKINS POST OFFICE.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 West Highway 64 Bypass in Roper, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the "E.V. Wilkins 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 "E.V. Wilkins Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) 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 to add any extraneous material.

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 present H.R. 3892 for consideration.

This legislation will designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 West Highway 64 Bypass in Roper, North Carolina, as the "E.V. Wilkins Post Office."

At this time, I yield such time as he may consume to the chief and lead sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. To the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee, my friend from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH), and to the minority member who is managing the bill—and I do not recall your name right now and I apologize for that—thank you very much for allowing us to have this time today.

Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a friend, the late Elmer V. Wilkins, who was an outstanding educator, mayor, councilman, State board of education member, and a lifelong North Carolinian.

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In North Carolina, we remember E.V. as one with a strong philosophy of tolerance and civic responsibility and educational achievement. Because of

his public service, I introduced this bill to name the United States Post Office located in Roper, North Carolina, as the "E.V. Wilkins Post Office."

Thanks to the overwhelming support of the entire North Carolina delegation—and I understand that Mr. ETHERIDGE, who is my colleague from North Carolina, may be on the floor in a few minutes, and they were, of course, friends—we are one step closer to this bill becoming a reality. The people of Roper, North Carolina, and throughout the county of Washington and even the surrounding counties deeply appreciate this naming opportunity.

Elmer Vanray, "E.V.," Wilkins was born on Independence Day of 1911, and to many who knew him, this was no coincidence. He was a staunch defender of constitutional rights and would become a well-known voice for civil rights and voting rights for every citizen. E.V. was the second of 10 children born to Mr. T.L. and Mrs. Maggie Wilkins in Roper.

After graduating from my alma mater, North Carolina Central University, in the 1930s, E.V. returned to his hometown of Roper to teach mathematics at J.J. Clemmons High School. He soon became the school's principal, a position he held for more than 30 years.

In 1946, Madam Chair, E.V. led an effort to provide bus rides to and from school for African American children living in his community. Prior to his activism, white children were the only students having access to a bus, forcing African American students to walk, sometimes miles, to and from their school. He solicited small donations from fair-minded white citizens and from African American citizens, and even accepted bushels of potatoes from those who were unable to give money. Those potatoes were sold and the proceeds were used in what was called the "bus fund."

In the mid-1950s, frustrated with the inability of African American citizens to vote, E.V. Wilkins, along with the local branch of the NAACP, initiated a lawsuit to compel elections officials to allow African American citizens to register to vote. As a result, E.V.'s father, Mr. T.L. Wilkins, was able to vote for the first time in 1956.

It was clear to E.V. that political empowerment for the African American community could make a real difference in their lives, and so in 1967, 2 years after the Voting Rights Act, E.V. made history by becoming the first African American since Reconstruction to be elected to the town council.

Sensing an opportunity to better serve the town and its citizens, E.V. was then elected mayor of Roper in 1975, again making history as the first African American to hold that position. E.V. served as mayor for 20 years until his retirement.

E.V. was a well-known progressive voice in eastern North Carolina. In addition to serving as mayor, he served

as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1972, 1980, and 1984, helping to nominate George McGovern, Jimmy Carter, and Walter Mondale as nominees for his political party.

E.V. was a tireless and stalwart public servant throughout his life. In addition to his service as teacher, principal, councilman, and mayor, he served on numerous boards, including the State Board of Education for North Carolina, State Economic Development Commission, North Carolina Secondary Road Council, North Carolina Railroad Board of Directors, North Carolina State Ports Authority, Advisory Board for the Rural Education Institution at ECU, which is East Carolina University, and Elizabeth City State University Board of Trustees.

During his life, E.V. received many honors and awards, including the North Carolina Distinguished Citizen Award, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the Service Award by the North Carolina Leadership Caucus, the North Carolina Distinguished Service Award, and the North Carolina Human Relations Commission's Libby D. Koontz Award in recognition for his dedication and leadership in the areas of education, civil rights, and human rights.

He was also honored by Elizabeth City State University with the naming of the university's computer center as the E.V. Wilkins Academic Computer Center several years ago. Further, Elizabeth City State University established the E.V. Wilkins Endowed Chair in the university's School of Education and Psychology Department in 1996.

E.V. Wilkins passed away, Madam Speaker, on June 2, 2002, at the age of 90 years old. His commitment to enriching the lives and standing up for those less fortunate are qualities that I hope we all emulate. His integrity and the values for which he fought do great honor to the post office that will bear his name.

His greatest fortune is his two daughters, Bunny and Joy. Bunny was also called to public service, I might say, much like her father. She is currently the mayor of Roper, North Carolina, and is an outspoken advocate for her town and its citizens.

Again, I want to thank my friend Mr. LYNCH and the ranking member and all of my colleagues for their support. I respectfully request an "aye" vote on H.R. 3892.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 3892, designating the United States Postal Service facility located at 101 West Highway 64 Bypass in Roper, North Carolina, the "E.V. Wilkins Post Office."

Born in Roper, North Carolina, on July 4, 1911, Elmer Vanray Wilkins spent his childhood in Roper before attending North Carolina Central University, where he received a bachelor of science and master of arts degree.

Upon graduation, Mr. Wilkins returned home to Roper, where he taught mathematics at J.J. Clemmons High School. During the time he was serving as a teacher, Mr. Wilkins met his wife, Elizabeth, also a fellow teacher.

As a result of his success as a teacher, in 1941 he was promoted to principal of Clemmons High School, a position he held with distinction for over 30 years.

Throughout his decades of service at Clemmons High School, Mr. Wilkins was described as a mentor to many of his students.

In the 1950s, Mr. Wilkins began his involvement in politics. He worked with the NAACP to file a lawsuit that eventually ensured that African Americans in his home county of Washington County were allowed the right to vote. He continued his work in politics, and in 1967 he became the first post-Reconstruction African American member of the Roper town council.

Mr. Wilkins broke down more racial barriers in 1975 when he became the first African American mayor of Roper. He served as mayor for 20 years until he retired. During his time as mayor, he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention three separate times.

His years of public service earned him many different awards and honors. His passion for helping others and dedication to the town of Roper was a model for young people in the community that he helped grow and change. He was given the North Carolina Distinguished Citizen Award, the Service Award by the North Carolina Leadership Caucus, the North Carolina Distinguished Service Award, and the North Carolina Human Rights Commission's Libby D. Koontz Award in recognition of his dedication and leadership in the areas of education, civil rights, and human rights.

Elizabeth City State University dedicated its computer center to Mr. Wilkins and created an endowed faculty chair in his honor in its School of Education and Psychology.

Mr. Wilkins' personal accomplishments are an inspiration to many in Roper and throughout North Carolina, including his daughter, Bunny Sanders, who is the current mayor of Roper.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to honor E.V. Wilkins' life and successes. I ask my fellow Members to join me in supporting H.R. 3892. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, at this time I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) to speak on Mr. BUTTERFIELD's resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, let me, first of all, thank Chairman LYNCH for yielding. And I want to commend Representative BUTTERFIELD for introducing such an outstanding resolution paying tribute to such an outstanding individual as Mr. Wilkins.

As I listened to Representative BUTTERFIELD talk about Mr. Wilkins, I couldn't help but be reminded of my

own parents, my uncles and aunts, who were all part of that generation of individuals who did outstanding work that has been unheralded in many instances. So I simply want to congratulate Representative BUTTERFIELD for recognizing such an outstanding person.

I also want to take this opportunity to commend Representative PLATTS for his resolution honoring the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, who lived in the neighborhood where I lived the little time that he spent in Chicago, and I got a chance to know him and to see him. And so I simply recommend that all of us spend a day of service and a day of work in his memory.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3892.

I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, first, I want to thank Mr. LUETKEMEYER for his articulate comments and his support of this resolution. I want to thank the lead sponsors, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and also Mr. ETHERIDGE I understand is a sponsor as well. I ask our colleagues on both sides to support this resolution.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3892 to name the post office at 101 West Highway 64 bypass in Roper, North Carolina after my friend, a fierce education advocate and civil rights champion, Elmer Vanray "E.V." Wilkins. I would like to thank my friend Congressman BUTTERFIELD for offering this legislation to provide a well-deserved honor to one of North Carolina's native sons.

I had the distinct privilege of working with E.V. during my tenure as State Superintendent of Public Instruction in North Carolina. I will remember E.V. for his unique style in handling tough situations and his passion for education. E.V. was born in Roper on July 4, 1911, to Tom and Maggie Wilkins. He received both his Bachelor of Science and Masters degrees from North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina and later returned to Roper to teach mathematics at J.J. Clemmons High School. While at Clemmons High School, E.V. Wilkins met his beautiful wife, Elizabeth, who was also a teacher there. In 1941, E.V. became principal of Clemmons High School, a position he held for 33 years. E.V. was an institution at Clemmons, a positive influence and mentor to his students, always encouraging them to succeed.

Perhaps E.V.'s most lasting legacy will be his work bringing races together in North Carolina. Back in the days when white children had a bus to take to school and African-American students did not, E.V. began his efforts by raising money for a school bus for Clemmons High School in 1946. He was able to get donations from African Americans and whites, and even sold bushels of potatoes to raise funds. But this was only the first of his successes fighting for civil rights.

In the mid-1950s, Wilkins continued his fight for equality against white town leaders' refusal to allow African Americans to vote. Wilkins led a lawsuit with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on behalf of

the town's black residents and in 1956 won a court order enforcing their right to vote. Wilkins' father was able to vote for the first time in his life. E.V. was committed to the idea that all people deserve equal rights, and he dedicated his life to this cause.

In 1967, E.V. Wilkins became the first African American since reconstruction to be elected to the Roper Town Council and then in 1975 he became the first African American elected as Mayor of Roper. He held this position for 20 years.

A committed public servant, throughout his life E.V. found time to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, the Advisory Board for the Rural Education Institution at East Carolina University, and of the Elizabeth City State University Board of Trustees, serving as Chair from 1989 to 1994. He was also active in the Democratic Party and served as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in 1972, 1980, and 1984.

E.V. Wilkins died on June 2, 2002 and is survived by his daughters, Bunny Sanders and Joy Price, son-in-law, Ralph Price, and two grandchildren. Madam Speaker, this is a fitting tribute for an extraordinary man whom I was proud to call my friend, and honored to work with in support of education for all of North Carolina's children. I thank Congressman BUTTERFIELD for offering this legislation and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. LYNCH. 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. 3892.

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.

#### SERGEANT MATTHEW L. INGRAM POST OFFICE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4139) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7464 Highway 503 in Hickory, Mississippi, as the "Sergeant Matthew L. Ingram Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4139

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

#### SECTION 1. SERGEANT MATTHEW L. INGRAM POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7464 Highway 503 in Hickory, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant Matthew L. Ingram 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