

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

be a reference to the "Sergeant Matthew L. Ingram 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 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. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As chairman of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over the United States Postal Service, I am pleased to present H.R. 4139 for consideration. This legislation will designate the United States Postal Service facility located at 7464 Highway 503 in Hickory, Mississippi, as the "Sergeant Matthew L. Ingram Post Office."

H.R. 4139 was introduced by my colleague Representative GREGG HARPER of Mississippi on November 19, 2009, and reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on December 10, 2009, by a voice vote. In addition, the legislation enjoys the support of the entire Mississippi House delegation.

A native of Pearl, Mississippi, Sergeant Ingram was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan as a proud member of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Carson, Colorado. Regrettably, Sergeant Ingram was killed in action in Kunar province, Afghanistan on August, 21, 2009, after an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle and his unit came under small arms fire from enemy forces. Sergeant Ingram was 25 years old at the time of his death.

Following his graduation from Newton County High School in Decatur, Mississippi, Sergeant Ingram enlisted in the United States Army in 2003 to fulfill his lifelong goal of serving his country. One year later, Sergeant Ingram was deployed to Iraq and served two tours of duty, with distinction, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2004 to 2005 and from 2006 to 2007. In recognition of his exemplary service, Sergeant Ingram received an Army Commendation Medal, an honor bestowed on soldiers who distinguish themselves through heroism, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service.

On May 26, 2009, Sergeant Ingram began a tour of duty in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and remained in service to his country until his passing on August 21 of last year.

Madam Speaker, those that were fortunate enough to know Sergeant Matthew Ingram remember him as a loyal, hardworking, and positive young man whose dedication to serving his country was only surpassed by his devotion to his loving family. In the words of his loving father, James, Sergeant Matthew Ingram was a "mighty good man."

As noted by his beloved wife, Holly, Sergeant Ingram was a soldier at heart, whose service in the United States Army afforded him the opportunity to do exactly what he loved to do. However, Sergeant Ingram always considered being a good dad to his daughter, Chloe, now over 1 year old, as his most important mission in life. "He loved his baby and would do anything for her," recalled Holly Ingram upon her husband's passing.

Similarly, Sergeant Ingram's classmates and teachers at his alma mater, Newton County High School, remember their fallen friend as a dedicated and courageous young man.

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As noted by Sergeant Ingram's former teacher, Sue Geter, I am very honored to have taught him. And the fact that he gave the ultimate price is something I am proud of, that I had an opportunity to teach him.

Madam Speaker, the life of Sergeant Matthew L. Ingram stands as a testament to the courage and dedication of all our brave servicemen and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation. Let us pay tribute to the life and service of Sergeant Matthew L. Ingram through the passage of this legislation, H.R. 4139, to designate the Hickory, Mississippi, postal facility in his honor. I urge all of my colleagues to join us in supporting H.R. 4139.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from the State of Mississippi (Mr. HARPER).

Mr. HARPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4139, a resolution to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located in Hickory, Mississippi, as the "Sergeant Matthew L. Ingram Post Office."

As a child, Matthew was thought of by his mother, Patricia, as the one giving the orders. She explains he would tell his older brother what to do. "He's always been a leader, not a follower," explains Patricia. "He did not want to be mediocre." As Matthew grew older, he saw many advantages to military service. For starters, he saw the Army as a way to serve the country that he loved, pay for his education, and, as his mother added, see the world.

Ingram joined the Army in the summer of 2003, fulfilling his basic training requirements at Fort Benning, Georgia. Matthew served as a member of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th

Infantry Division, based in Fort Carson, Colorado. Soon after basic training his brigade was reassigned to South Korea, where he spent 10 months prior to his first deployment to Iraq for a 1-year tour.

Stationed in Colorado after returning from Iraq, Ingram would meet his future wife, Holly. Their 2006 marriage preceded his return for a second Iraq tour. However, this time he had been promoted to sergeant. In 2007, Sergeant Ingram returned to Colorado from theatre wearing an impressive military decoration. He wore one of the highest honors presented to soldiers who have been wounded while serving our country, the Purple Heart. As his mother would describe, "That was his most prized possession." Sergeant Ingram's next call to duty was in Afghanistan in May of 2009, and for the first time he left not only a wife, whom he loved, but also a beautiful baby girl, Chloe. His departure would be the last time this brave young soldier would embrace his family that he loved so much.

On August 20, 2009, Army Sergeant Matthew Ingram died from wounds suffered from an IED detonated near his vehicle during combat in Afghanistan. The blast occurred while his unit was under small-arms fire from enemy forces. At the time of his death, the fighting in Afghanistan was so brutal that Admiral Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, described the situation as "serious and deteriorating." Although this would be his last mission, combat had become familiar to this brave, 25-year-old Purple Heart recipient.

Naming this facility will present a constant reminder of the sacrifices Sergeant Ingram and other Mississippians have made through their service to our country. Matthew's love for his country and able leadership took him from Hickory, Mississippi, to Afghanistan, and his courage and sacrifice will never be forgotten. I urge you to support this resolution.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I urge the Members to support the passage of House Resolution 4139.

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

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask all Members on each side as well to support this resolution, which will designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located in Hickory, Mississippi, in honor of Matthew L. Ingram.

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. 4139.

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.

## FDR DOCUMENTS ACT

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 692) to provide that claims of the United States to certain documents relating to Franklin Delano Roosevelt shall be treated as waived and relinquished in certain circumstances.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 692

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

**SECTION 1. TREATMENT OF OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS RELATING TO FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—If any person or entity makes a gift of any property described in subsection (b) to the National Archives and Records Administration, then any claim of the United States to such property shall be treated as having been waived and relinquished on the day before the date of such gift.

(b) PROPERTY DESCRIBED.—Property is described in this subsection if such property—

(1) is a part of the collection of documents, papers, and memorabilia relating to Franklin Delano Roosevelt or any member of his family or staff; and

(2) was in the possession of Grace Tully and retained by her at the time of her death.

(c) DATE OF GIFT.—The date of a gift referred to in subsection (a) is any date specified by the donor so long as such date is subsequent to the physical delivery of the property described in subsection (b) to the National Archives and Records Administration.

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 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 my such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I present Senate bill 692 for consideration.

This legislation will facilitate the donation of the Grace Tully Archive to the National Archives and Records Administration. Senate bill 692 is the Senate companion to H.R. 1506, which was introduced by Representative LOUISE SLAUGHTER. H.R. 1506 passed the House by voice vote on November 16, 2009, after it was approved by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform by voice vote on October 29, 2009. Senate bill 692 is identical to H.R. 1506, and was introduced by Senator CHUCK SCHUMER on March 25, 2009. The legislation was reported out of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security

and Governmental Affairs without amendment on October 5, 2009, and was passed by the United States Senate on October 14, 2009, by unanimous consent.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Grace Tully served as the personal secretary of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt from June of 1941 to April of 1945. In her capacity as personal secretary to the President, Ms. Tully preserved an assortment of personal papers and other historical items related to President Roosevelt that have come to form a historically significant collection. While the private owner of the Grace Tully Collection would like to donate the materials to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library, the National Archives and Records Administration, which administers the Roosevelt Library, has asserted a claim to a portion of the collection. The claim asserted by the National Archives impacts whether the private owner may claim a tax deduction for the donation. In order to facilitate the donation of the Grace Tully Archive, Senate bill 692 waives the government's claim to the records and will thereby allow the collection to be gifted to the Roosevelt Library.

Madam Speaker, the Grace Tully Archive represents an important part of American history. Through the passage of Senate bill 692, we will ensure that this collection will be properly preserved and made publicly available through the Roosevelt Library.

I'd also like to note that this legislation enjoys the support of the National Archives. As noted by former Acting Archivist Adrienne Thomas in a letter sent to the Oversight Committee in October of 2009, "I write to express my strong support for the ongoing legislative effort to facilitate the donation to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library of the Tully Archive." Ms. Thomas went on to say that, "It is very important to the National Archives and Records Administration, and for future historians that might want to study these papers, for the Tully Archive to be kept intact and made fully accessible to the American people in a public government archives."

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Senate bill 692.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

S. 692 is identical to House Resolution 1506, which passed the House on November 16. Therefore, I want to reiterate the points made previously during debate on the House bill. This bill will waive certain claims of the United States to specific documents, known as the Tully Collection, relating to Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Grace Tully served in Franklin Roosevelt's secretarial staff for several decades, and in 1941, became his personal secretary. After her death, her collection of papers passed through a number of

hands and finally to the current owners, Sun Times Media, who bought the collection for \$8 million in 2001.

In 2004, the National Archives asserted a claim to a portion of the documents. Sun Times Media wishes to donate the collection to President Roosevelt's Presidential Library in Hyde Park, New York, and take a tax deduction. Due to the Archives claim, Sun Times Media is prevented from receiving a tax deduction on the donation. This bill waives the legal claims of the United States and the Archives, thereby clearing the way for the tax deduction and the donation.

I understand the Archives has offered to support this legislation in a letter to the committee. Nevertheless, I want to again highlight two points: The majority moved this bill without a hearing. We should have had a better understanding of legislation relinquishing the Federal Government's claims while benefiting certain private entities through tax breaks. Given the multiple, ongoing instances of mismanagement of the Archives, we should have the opportunity on the committee to review all legislation relating to this agency.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I urge the Members to support the passage of S. 692, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Likewise, Madam Speaker, I urge support of Senate bill 692, and 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, S. 692.

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.

**GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009**

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2646) to amend title 31, United States Code, to enhance the oversight authorities of the Comptroller General, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2646

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Government Accountability Office Improvement Act of 2009".

**SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION.**

(a) AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN RECORDS.—Section 716 of title 31, United States Code, is amended in subsection (a)—

(1) by striking "(a)" and inserting "(2)"; and

(2) by inserting after the section heading the following: