

1449 West Avenue in Bronx, New York, as the "Private Isaac T. Cortes Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6205

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

SECTION 1. PRIVATE ISAAC T. CORTES POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1449 West Avenue in Bronx, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Private Isaac T. Cortes 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 "Private Isaac T. Cortes Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CHU. 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 gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

□ 1500

Ms. CHU. I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6205, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1449 West Avenue in Bronx, New York, as the Private Isaac T. Cortes Post Office. H.R. 6205 was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from New York, Representative JOSEPH CROWLEY, on September 23, 2010. The measure enjoys the support of New York's entire delegation to the House.

A native of the Bronx, Private Isaac T. Cortes held several jobs before enlisting in the Army. He was very proud to work as a security guard at Yankee Stadium and at one point hoped to become an officer with the New York City Police Department. He enlisted with the Army in November 2006 to gain experience that would help him achieve that goal, but later decided to become a career military man.

Private Cortes served as an infantryman with the 1st Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Light Infantry, based out of Fort Drum, New York. He was a Humvee driver and performed operator-level maintenance on the vehicle. While overseas in Iraq, he participated in mountain Humvee and dismounted walking patrols. Private Cortes engaged in weapons cache searches and humanitarian aid missions to the local Iraqi people.

Sadly, on November 27, 2007, Private Cortes was one of two soldiers killed

when an improvised explosive device was detonated as his vehicle rode past Amerli, Iraq, about 100 miles north of Baghdad. His awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Army Service Medal.

He is survived by his parents, Emily and Isaias, his younger brother Christopher, a young daughter Amaria, and a large extended family. They remember Private Cortes as the kid who would help elders carry groceries, the young man who would play with his younger cousins, and the father who wanted to be the best he could be for his young child. Today we also remember him as the soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

Mr. Speaker, let us now pay tribute to the life and service of Private Isaac T. Cortes by designating the postal facility on West Avenue in the Bronx in his honor.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6205.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6205, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1449 West Avenue in Bronx, New York, as the Private Isaac T. Cortes Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, Private Cortes was born and raised in the Bronx and joined the Army in November of 2006. After basic training, he was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division based out of Fort Drum, New York. In September 2007, Private Cortes deployed to Iraq to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. And sadly, Mr. Speaker, less than 2 months later, on November 27, 2007, Private Cortes died when the vehicle he was riding in was struck by an improvised explosive device. Private Cortes was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star to honor his bravery and courage.

Mr. Speaker, it is altogether fitting and proper that we name this post office to honor Private Cortes. This was a man who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, fighting for our freedom and the freedom of the Iraqi people. The least we can do is honor his memory by naming this post office after him. I join all Members to join me in strong support of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6205.

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. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

FOR VETS ACT OF 2010

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3794) to amend chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, to include organizations whose membership comprises substantially veterans as recipient organizations for the donation of Federal surplus personal property through State agencies.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3794

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 "Formerly Owned Resources for Veterans to Express Thanks for Service Act of 2010" or "FOR VETS Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. RECIPIENTS OF CERTAIN FEDERAL SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY.

Section 549(c)(3)(B) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (viii), by striking "or" after the semicolon;

(2) in clause (ix), by striking the period and inserting "; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(x) an organization whose—"

"(I) membership comprises substantially veterans (as defined under section 101 of title 38); and

"(II) representatives are recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 5902 of title 38."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CHU. 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 gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. CHU. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I present S. 3794, the FOR VETS Act of 2010. The measure authorizes the transfer of Federal surplus property to State agencies for donation within the State for veterans organizations.

S. 3794 was introduced by our colleague in the other Chamber, Senator PATRICK LEAHY of Vermont, on September 16, 2010. It was referred to the

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and agreed to in the Senate, with amendment, by unanimous consent. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on November 15, 2010.

This bill, which was originally known as the Formerly Owned Resources for Veterans to Express Thanks for Service Act of 2010, adds veterans groups to the list of entities already eligible to receive the transfer of surplus Federal property from State agencies through donation. Under this measure, eligible groups will include education or public health organizations whose membership is substantially comprised of veterans and whose representatives are recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, S. 3794 provides unneeded and unutilized Federal property to assist our veterans in their daily lives. This is a small token of our gratitude for their sacrifices on behalf of our country, but one that can make a great difference to those proud men and women who have given so much for us. I would like to thank Senator LEAHY, Chairman TOWNS, and Ranking Member ISSA for their hard work on this bill; and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of S. 3794, the FOR VETS Act of 2010. Mr. Speaker, this is a simple bill that is long overdue. The FOR VETS Act, known as the Formerly Owned Resources for Veterans to Express Thanks for Service Act—that's a great acronym right there—makes organizations whose membership is comprised primarily of veterans eligible to receive excess personal Federal property. I think it's appropriate that we draw a distinction between personal property and real property. There are major differences, and the value is certainly one of them.

Every day, Mr. Speaker, the General Services Administration, through State agencies, donates surplus goods, such as computers and home appliances, to a wide variety of organizations such as hospitals, schools, and public libraries. The FOR VETS Act simply adds veterans organizations to this list of eligible recipients who can receive the excess Federal personal property. The property being donated under the FOR VETS Act will be items that the Federal Government is no longer using. I can't imagine a more deserving segment of the population to which we should be donating this excess property.

□ 1510

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3794.

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 372. An act to amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosures of information protected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority for the Special Counsel, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 77. Concurrent resolution to provide for the approval of final regulations issued by the Office of Compliance to implement the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 that apply to certain legislative branch employing offices and their covered employees.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 3817) "An Act to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978, and the Abandoned Infants Assistance Act of 1988 to reauthorize the Acts, and for other purposes."

CONGRATULATING GERDA WEISSMANN KLEIN ON PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1743) congratulating Gerda Weissmann Klein on being selected to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1743

Whereas Gerda Weissmann was born in Bielsko, Poland in 1924;

Whereas within months of the German invasion of Poland in 1939, Ms. Weissmann's brother Arthur was taken away by the Germans and the remainder of her family was forced to live in a ghetto;

Whereas Ms. Weissmann was soon separated from her parents, who were sent to Auschwitz;

Whereas Ms. Weissmann was forced to spend the next 3 years in a succession of slave-labor and concentration camps;

Whereas in 1945, Ms. Weissmann was forced to walk in a 350-mile death march during which 2,000 women, including Ms. Weissmann, were subjected to starvation, exposure, and arbitrary execution;

Whereas the death march ended in Volary, Czechoslovakia, when the survivors were liberated by the United States Army;

Whereas Ms. Weissmann was one of less than 120 women to survive the death march;

Whereas one of the American Army officers who helped liberate the survivors was German-born Lieutenant Kurt Klein, whose parents had been murdered in Auschwitz;

Whereas Ms. Weissmann and Lieutenant Klein fell in love, got married, and moved to the United States to start a family;

Whereas upon moving to the United States, Mrs. Weissmann Klein worked vigilantly to promote Holocaust education and remembrance, teach tolerance, and combat hunger;

Whereas Mrs. Weissmann Klein's first book, *All But My Life*, was published in 1957, and chronicles her courageous struggle for survival during the Holocaust;

Whereas *One Survivor Remembers*, a documentary about Mrs. Weissmann Klein's experiences during the Holocaust, won an Academy Award in 1996;

Whereas Mrs. Weissmann Klein's lifelong work has been to repay this country for her freedom and the boundless opportunities given to her, she founded Citizenship Counts, a nonprofit organization that teaches today's youth to appreciate and celebrate the majesty of their American citizenship;

Whereas Mrs. Weissmann Klein's life and work have inspired generations of Americans and countless individuals from around the world; and

Whereas, on November 17, 2010, President Barack Obama announced that Gerda Weissmann Klein would be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates Gerda Weissmann Klein on being selected to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CHU. 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 gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1743, a measure congratulating Gerda Weissmann Klein on being selected to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom. House Resolution 1743 was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Arizona, Representative HARRY MITCHELL, on December 1, 2010. The measure enjoys the support of over 90 Members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, in 1939, Mrs. Weissmann Klein was living in Poland at the age of 15. Within months of the German invasion of Poland that year, she began to