

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUELLAR. 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 gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. CUELLAR. I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to present S. 3592, legislation that designates the United States Postal Service facility located at 100 Commerce Drive, Tyrone, Georgia, as the First Lieutenant Robert Wilson Collins Post Office Building.

Introduced by Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS of Georgia, S. 3592 passed the Senate unanimously yesterday, December 16, 2010.

Mr. Speaker, First Lieutenant Robert Wilson Collins was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, out of Fort Stewart, Georgia. A class of 2008 graduate of West Point, Lieutenant Collins deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the fall of 2009 and served as a platoon leader while his unit provided support during the national elections in Iraq.

□ 0910

Understanding the importance of maintaining the morale of the unit's soldiers and keeping them connected to family and friends at home, Lieutenant Collins maintained a Facebook page for the unit, allowing the unit to share photos and messages with loved ones.

Sadly, on April 7, 2010, Lieutenant Collins was killed when enemy forces attacked his vehicle with an improvised explosive device in Mosul, Iraq. He was 24 years of age.

Lieutenant Collins is survived by his parents, Retired Lieutenant Colonels Deacon and Sharon Collins, and Nicolle, his childhood sweetheart and girlfriend of 8 years.

Mr. Speaker, let us pay tribute to the life and service of First Lieutenant Robert Wilson Collins by designating this postal facility on Commerce Drive in Tyrone, Georgia, his home town.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting Senate bill 3592, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am very honored to join in with my colleague Congressman CUELLAR in support of this legislation which was introduced by Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS. I know that it has been championed by Congressman LYNN WESTMORELAND.

I particularly have an interest in recognizing Lieutenant Collins. I am very grateful, myself, to be the son of a Flying Tiger. I am very grateful to have served for 31 years in the Army Guard and Reserve. In fact, I was stationed many summers at Fort Stewart, Georgia, so I identify with the 3rd Infantry Division. I am particularly grateful that I have four sons currently serving in the military. Two of my sons have served in Iraq. And so I know the great efforts of our troops and the sacrifices of military families.

His obituary truly indicates an extraordinary young person:

"First Lieutenant Robert Wilson Collins of Tyrone, Georgia, was killed in action on April 7, 2010, in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. First Lieutenant Collins was born in 1985 in Red Bank, New Jersey, and graduated from Sandy Creek High School, class of 2004. After high school, he graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, class of 2008. First Lieutenant Collins was the first member of the United States Military Academy class of 2008 to die in combat. He was serving as a platoon leader in B Company, 1-64 Armor Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

"He is survived by his parents, Lieutenant Colonel Retired Burkitt Deacon Collins and Lieutenant Colonel Retired Sharon L.G. Collins of Tyrone, Georgia; paternal grandmother, Susan R. Collins of Laurel, Mississippi; aunts, Susan D. Groff of Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Mary Margaret Anderson and her husband Robert Earl of Ellisville, Mississippi; and Susan G. Stringfellow of Purvis, Mississippi; childhood sweetheart and girlfriend of 8 years, Nicolle Williams of Tyrone, Georgia; best friend, Andrew Gardner of Miami, Florida; his band of brothers: First Lieutenant Andrew Collins, First Lieutenant Sean Flachs, First Lieutenant Tim Konze, First Lieutenant Dan McLeod, Greg Maduro, First Lieutenant Phil Raquepau, and First Lieutenant Clifford Walker; battle buddy, First Lieutenant John F. Parsons; and numerous friends, extended family members, and comrades in arms."

Funeral services were held April 17 at New Hope Baptist Church at 10 o'clock, and it was conducted by Rev. Scott Pickering, Dr. Rick Long, and Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Mark Fairbrother officiating. Interment followed at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Newnan, Georgia. And in lieu of flowers, there was a request for donations to the First Lieutenant Robert Wilson Collins Patriot Spirit Scholarship, care of Bank of Georgia, 100 Westpark Drive, Peachtree City, Georgia 30269.

Again, certainly the obituary, knowing that this was such an extraordinary young person, protecting our country by defeating the terrorists overseas, I am honored to join in urging support of the legislation.

[From the Times-Herald.com, April 15, 2010]

1LT ROBERT WILSON COLLINS

1LT Robert Wilson Collins of Tyrone, GA, was killed in action on April 7, 2010, in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 1LT Collins was born in 1985 in Red Bank, NJ, and graduated from Sandy Creek High School, Class of 2004. After high school he graduated from The United States Military Academy at West Point, NY, Class of 2008. 1LT Collins was the first member of the USMA Class of 2008 to die in combat. He was serving as a Platoon Leader in B Company, 1-64 Armor Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

He is survived by his parents, LTC (RET) Burkitt (Deacon) Collins and LTC (RET) Sharon L.G. Collins of Tyrone, GA; paternal grandmother, Susan R. Collins of Laurel, MS; aunts, Susan D. Groff of Lancaster, PA; Mary Margaret Anderson and her husband Robert Earl of Ellisville, MS; and Susan G. Stringfellow of Purvis, MS; childhood sweetheart and girlfriend of 8 years, Nicolle Williams of Tyrone, GA; best friend, Andrew Gardner of Miami, FL; his Band of Brothers: 1LT Andrew Collins, 1LT Sean Flachs, 1LT Tim Konze, 1LT Dan McLeod, Greg Maduro, 1LT Phil Raquepau and 1LT Clifford Walker; Battle Buddy, 1LT John F. Parsons; and numerous friends, extended family members, and Comrades in Arms.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, April 17 at New Hope Baptist Church (North Campus) at 10 o'clock with Rev. Scott Pickering, Dr. Rick Long, and Chaplain LTC Mark E. Fairbrother officiating. Interment to follow at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Newnan. In lieu of flowers those desiring may make donations to the 1LT Robert Wilson Collins Patriot Spirit Scholarship, c/o Bank of Georgia, 100 Westpark Drive, Peachtree City, GA 30269. Those wishing can make an online condolence at www.parrottfuneralhome.com.

The family will receive friends Friday evening from 5 until 8 p.m. at Parrott Funeral Home and Crematory in Fairburn, GA.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUELLAR. 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 gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3592.

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. CUELLAR. 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.

RECOGNIZING MARK TWAIN AS AN AMERICAN LITERARY ICON

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1733) recognizing

Mark Twain as one of America's most famous literary icons on the 175th anniversary of his birth and the 100th anniversary of his death, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1733

Whereas, on November 30, 1835, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, one of the most prolific and influential writers and orators in America, was born in Florida, Missouri;

Whereas Clemens suffered many childhood setbacks including incessant poor health until age 9 and the death of his father at age of 12;

Whereas growing up along the emerging Mississippi port city of Hannibal, Missouri, watching the frequent steamboat stops and working as a printer and editorial assistant at his brother's newspaper, Clemens discovered his passion for writing;

Whereas Clemens, at the age of 17, moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and became a river pilot's apprentice, eventually becoming a licensed river pilot in 1858;

Whereas Samuel Clemens then worked for several newspapers across the United States after the river trade was halted by the Civil War in 1861;

Whereas Clemens assumed his pen name, Mark Twain, based on his experience as a river pilot;

Whereas Mark Twain means two fathoms or 12 feet when the depth of water for a boat is being sounded, or that it is safe to navigate;

Whereas Twain's first work to gain notoriety was his short story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County", which appeared in the New York Saturday Press on November 18, 1865;

Whereas Mark Twain composed 28 books as well as numerous short stories, letters, and sketches, including such classics as "Life on the Mississippi", "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer", "The Prince and the Pauper", and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn";

Whereas Twain first declared his disappointment with politics in "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court", where he depicted the absurdities of political and social norms by setting them in the court of King Arthur;

Whereas Mark Twain was a staunch civil rights advocate believing strongly in emancipation and said, "Lincoln's Proclamation . . . not only set the black slaves free, but set the white man free also."; and

Whereas Mark Twain was an adamant supporter of women's suffrage, saying in his most famous speech, "Votes for Women";

"Referring to woman's sphere in life, I'll say that woman is always right. For twenty-five years I've been a woman's rights man. I have always believed, long before my mother died, that, with her gray hairs and admirable intellect, perhaps she knew as much as I did. Perhaps she knew as much about voting as I.

"I should like to see the time come when women shall help to make the laws. I should like to see that whiplash, the ballot, in the hands of women. As for this city's government, I don't want to say much, except that it is a shame—a shame; but if I should live twenty-five years longer—and there is no reason why I shouldn't—I think I'll see women handle the ballot. If women had the ballot to-day, the state of things in this town would not exist.

"If all the women in this town had a vote today they would elect a mayor at the next election, and they would rise in their might and change the awful state of things now existing here." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes Mark Twain as one of America's most famous literary icons and commemorates him on the 175th anniversary of his birth and the 100th anniversary of his death.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUELLAR. 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 gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. CUELLAR. I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Oversight Government Reform, I am pleased to present House Resolution 1733, a resolution recognizing Mark Twain as one of America's most famous literary icons on the 175th anniversary of his birth and the 100th anniversary of his death. House Resolution 1733 was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Arkansas, Representative VIC SNYDER, on November 18, 2010. This measure enjoys the support of over 60 Members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Twain was born as Samuel Langhorne Clemens in the town of Florida, Missouri, on November 30, 1835. Famously, he was born 2 weeks after the closest approach to Earth of Halley's Comet, which made its next approach 1 day after his death in 1910.

At the age of 4, Twain moved to Hannibal, Missouri, a Mississippi River town that would inspire some of his most beloved works. At age 12, he became a printer's apprentice; and at age 16, he began working as a typesetter and contributor of articles and humorous sketches for the Hannibal Journal, a newspaper owned by his brother Orion. At age 18, he worked briefly as a printer in New York City, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Cincinnati, taking time to educate himself at public libraries in the evenings.

After returning to Missouri at age 22, he was inspired to be a steamboat pilot, earning significant income, learning intimate details of the river, and where he was inspired to give himself his pen name Mark Twain, which refers to the depth of two fathoms, or 12 feet, the right depth for safe passage of a riverboat.

He worked on riverboats until 1861, when the Civil War stopped traffic along the Mississippi River. He then traveled west, working as a miner and for newspapers in various towns. His first success as a writer came when his humorous short story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County,"

was published in a New York weekly, The Saturday Press, on November 18, 1865. This launched his renown as a writer, bringing attention across the country.

After traveling to Europe and the Middle East on assignment from a local newspaper, he moved with his family to Buffalo, New York, and then to Hartford, Connecticut. It was in Hartford that Twain wrote his most famous works, "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," "The Prince and the Pauper," "Life on the Mississippi," "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," and "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court."

He gave lectures around the world, patented three inventions, and developed a lasting friendship with one of history's most famous scientists and inventors, Nikola Tesla.

Twain died at age 74 on April 21, 1910, a year after making his famous prediction: "I came in with Halley's Comet in 1835. It is coming again next year, and I expect to go out with it. It will be the greatest disappointment of my life if I don't go out with Halley's Comet. The Almighty has said, no doubt: 'Now here are these two unaccountable freaks; they came in together, they must go out together.'"

William Faulkner called Mark Twain "the father of American literature," and he is rightly remembered as such. We can also remember and honor him for his advocacy on behalf of emancipation and women's suffrage.

In closing, no study of American literature is complete without the works of Mark Twain. Mr. Speaker, let us, therefore, honor this giant of American literature on the 100th anniversary of his death through the passage of House Resolution 1733.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1733, recognizing Mark Twain as one of America's most famous literary icons on the 175th anniversary of his birth and the 100th anniversary of his death.

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Born Samuel Langhorne Clemens in Florida, Missouri, on November 30, 1835, Mark Twain left school at the age of 13 to go to work as a printer's apprentice. He went on to become an editorial assistant at a newspaper and river pilot, where he gained his famous pseudonym. Mark Twain began writing for a newspaper during the Civil War, and his short story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" was published in 1865. Twain would, of course, go on to author "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," among 28 other books and numerous short stories.

Mr. Speaker, it is altogether fitting and proper that we recognize Mark

Twain and his rich contributions to our country's literary history. This wonderful occasion has also inspired me to rediscover the great works of Mark Twain with my granddaughter and connect this imaginary world with the reality of his boyhood home in Hannibal. It is critical for us to foster a love for reading among children and our grandchildren because it is part of what makes them kids.

I am also extremely honored and fortunate to represent Hannibal in Congress and would encourage folks to visit the area in northeast Missouri and discover the inspiration for some of the greatest literary works of American history. Mark Twain and the city of Hannibal are integral parts of Missouri's heritage, and I am proud to recognize him on this very special day.

To that end, a Mark Twain quote: "Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones that you did. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sail. Explore, dream, discover."

I urge all Members to join me in strong support of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER).

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, as a boy growing up in southern Oregon, Medford, Oregon, I was blessed with a wonderful public school system. Of course, that is about a half century ago now, but you only have a good school system if you have good teachers, and I did: Mr. Merriman and Elsie Butler and Devere Taylor and John Smock and Mrs. Leininger and Irv Myrick, and I do a disservice to all of them by naming just a few.

Chuck Nevi was one of those teachers, and he helped me explore America and humanity through the words of Mark Twain.

For a boy growing up in 1950s America, the world of riverboats, scalawags, runaway slaves, and sassy, independent, barefooted boys was magical. The world of Mark Twain taught readers universal truths about the human animal, and some of those truths are not flattering. Like all youngsters, I imagined myself to be Huckleberry Finn, and when Huck Finn chooses what he believes will be hell and eternal damnation so that his love, loyalty, and friendship with a runaway slave will be preserved, well, for me, being raised in a town with few minorities, I learned both about racism and about the power of even young boys to find the real truths and confront confusing human institutions that allowed racism to persist.

A few weeks ago, I saw the news report of Tina Fey winning the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, and it reminded me that this year, 2010, should be acknowledged for the 100th anniversary of Mark Twain's death and

the 175th anniversary of his birth. And so even though it was late in the session, I filed this resolution on his birthday to honor Mark Twain.

Mr. Speaker, when parents are away from their babies, particularly during these holidays, we talk about our kids, and so I will. My 4-year-old, Penn, and my three 2-year-olds, Aubrey, Wyatt and Sullivan, are the four little boy Huck Finns in our Arkansas household geographically not far from Huck Finn's world, but such a different world now, one that 19th century contemporaries of a young Sam Clemens would not recognize, except, of course, for his insights into the strengths and weaknesses of human nature. And because of that genius, that genius expressed with humor, I hope my young boys, my young Huck Finns, learn to love the world and works of Mark Twain.

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

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, again I 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 gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1733, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GPRA MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2142) to require the review of Government programs at least once every 5 years for purposes of assessing their performance and improving their operations, and to establish the Performance Improvement Council.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "GPRA Modernization Act of 2010".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Strategic planning amendments.
- Sec. 3. Performance planning amendments.
- Sec. 4. Performance reporting amendments.
- Sec. 5. Federal Government and agency priority goals.
- Sec. 6. Quarterly priority progress reviews and use of performance information.
- Sec. 7. Transparency of Federal Government programs, priority goals, and results.
- Sec. 8. Agency Chief Operating Officers.
- Sec. 9. Agency Performance Improvement Officers and the Performance Improvement Council.

Sec. 10. Format of performance plans and reports.

Sec. 11. Reducing duplicative and outdated agency reporting.

Sec. 12. Performance management skills and competencies.

Sec. 13. Technical and conforming amendments.

Sec. 14. Implementation of this Act.

Sec. 15. Congressional oversight and legislation.

SEC. 2. STRATEGIC PLANNING AMENDMENTS.

Chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking section 306 and inserting the following:

"§ 306. Agency strategic plans

"(a) Not later than the first Monday in February of any year following the year in which the term of the President commences under section 101 of title 3, the head of each agency shall make available on the public website of the agency a strategic plan and notify the President and Congress of its availability. Such plan shall contain—

"(1) a comprehensive mission statement covering the major functions and operations of the agency;

"(2) general goals and objectives, including outcome-oriented goals, for the major functions and operations of the agency;

"(3) a description of how any goals and objectives contribute to the Federal Government priority goals required by section 1120(a) of title 31;

"(4) a description of how the goals and objectives are to be achieved, including—

"(A) a description of the operational processes, skills and technology, and the human, capital, information, and other resources required to achieve those goals and objectives; and

"(B) a description of how the agency is working with other agencies to achieve its goals and objectives as well as relevant Federal Government priority goals;

"(5) a description of how the goals and objectives incorporate views and suggestions obtained through congressional consultations required under subsection (d);

"(6) a description of how the performance goals provided in the plan required by section 1115(a) of title 31, including the agency priority goals required by section 1120(b) of title 31, if applicable, contribute to the general goals and objectives in the strategic plan;

"(7) an identification of those key factors external to the agency and beyond its control that could significantly affect the achievement of the general goals and objectives; and

"(8) a description of the program evaluations used in establishing or revising general goals and objectives, with a schedule for future program evaluations to be conducted.

"(b) The strategic plan shall cover a period of not less than 4 years following the fiscal year in which the plan is submitted. As needed, the head of the agency may make adjustments to the strategic plan to reflect significant changes in the environment in which the agency is operating, with appropriate notification of Congress.

"(c) The performance plan required by section 1115(b) of title 31 shall be consistent with the agency's strategic plan. A performance plan may not be submitted for a fiscal year not covered by a current strategic plan under this section.

"(d) When developing or making adjustments to a strategic plan, the agency shall consult periodically with the Congress, including majority and minority views from the appropriate authorizing, appropriations, and oversight committees, and shall solicit and consider the views and suggestions of those entities potentially affected by or interested in such a plan. The agency shall consult with the appropriate committees of Congress at least once every 2 years.

"(e) The functions and activities of this section shall be considered to be inherently governmental functions. The drafting of strategic plans under this section shall be performed only by Federal employees.