

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 gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

□ 1710

GENERAL LEAVE

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

I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3413, introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), would 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. 3413 was reported favorably by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on February 7 of this year.

Mr. Speaker, Private Isaac T. Cortes was born and raised in the Bronx and joined the Army in November of 2006. While at one time Private Cortes had aspirations of becoming a police officer with the New York City Police Department, his desire to serve and protect his country as a soldier soon won out. According to his brother, Private Cortes was “proud doing what he did.” He wanted to continue serving in the Army and serve to fight against terrorism.

In September of 2007, Private Cortes deployed to Iraq to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and served as an infantry squad leader in the 10th Mountain Division based out of Fort Drum, New York.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, less than 3 months later, on November 27, 2007, Private Cortes died when the vehicle that he was riding in was struck by an improvised explosive device. He was just 26 years old.

For his bravery and courage, Mr. Speaker, Private Cortes was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Mr. Speaker, it is altogether fitting and proper that we name this post office in honor of Private Cortes. This man made the ultimate sacrifice fighting to protect the country that he

loved. He put his own life in harm’s way so that we can remain the land of the free.

For that, Mr. Speaker, I’m truly grateful. The least we can do, Mr. Speaker, is to honor him and his brave service to our Nation by naming this post office after him. I urge all Members to join me in support of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3413, a bill I authored to rename the United States Postal Service facility at 1449 West Avenue in the Bronx, New York, in honor of Private Isaac T. Cortes, who tragically lost his life outside Amerli, Iraq, on November 27, 2007.

Private Cortes lived his life by a simple motto, “Go big or go home,” which can also be used to describe Isaac’s decision to join the Army. Certainly there can be no more fitting instance of following the words he lived by than his decision to serve his country at a time when our country was fighting, not one, but two wars.

Isaac joined the Army in part because he felt that it would help him achieve his dream of one day becoming a member of the New York City Police Department, but quickly discovered that the Army was his true calling. Private Cortes loved the Army and loved the feeling of pride for country and community he felt when he wore the U.S. Army uniform, a pride so strong that Private Cortes intended to make a career in the Army, a career in the service of his country. Unfortunately, that dream was cut short on November 27, 2007, when Private Cortes, his Humvee, was hit by an IED, killing him instantly.

While Private Cortes did not get the chance to come home, his memory and spirit lives on through the love of his family, friends, country, and community.

The Army has recognized Private Cortes’ exceptional service by awarding him the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

Known for a big heart and his loving ways, his family honors his memory by hosting blood, clothing, food, and toy drives. And today, we have the opportunity to do our part to contribute to his legacy by passing this legislation, which will ensure his courage, integrity, and sacrifice will live on to inspire future generations to live up to his example.

There is nothing the government can do that will ever live up to Isaac’s “go big” moment or erase the burden felt by his family, especially his mother, Emily Toro, who I know is watching the proceedings now; but, by passing this bill, at least this Congress can do something to help ensure that his memory survives.

I think it only appropriate that prior to passing this bill we honor the serv-

ice of a World War II veteran, really showing the link between that great war to preserve democracy and freedom throughout the world and the sacrifices that have been made and continue to be made in a part of the world in the Middle East, in Iraq and Afghanistan, to preserve those same freedoms that we hold dear, that Private Cortes held dear, and as the people of the Bronx hold dear.

Just a note, Mr. Speaker, my colleague was talking about Bronx, New York. There are only three parts of the world that begin with “the”: the Vatican, The Hague, and the Bronx, sometimes said “da” Bronx.

But the Bronx is very proud of its sons and daughters, many of whom have paid the ultimate sacrifice in wartime; and this wartime is not unlike any other, continues to sacrifice, as do the sons and daughters of New York City and New York itself.

So, Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Private Isaac T. Cortes’ commitment to the Bronx, to New York City, to New York State, and to his beloved country, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of this brave soldier by supporting the passage of H.R. 3413.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and once again wish Emily Toro and the entire Cortes family our regards.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3413, honoring the service in memory of Private Isaac Cortes and the sacrifices of his family, including Mrs. Toro, his service to this country and to the Bronx, by naming this post office in his honor.

With that, 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. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3413.

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.

□ 1720

JAMES M. FITZGERALD UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1710) to designate the United States courthouse located at 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, as the James M. Fitzgerald United States Courthouse.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1710

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

SECTION 1. JAMES M. FITZGERALD UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States courthouse located at 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, shall be known and designated as the “James M. Fitzgerald United States Courthouse”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “James M. Fitzgerald United States Courthouse”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1710.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Senate bill 1710 would designate the United States courthouse located at 222 West Seventh Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, as the James M. Fitzgerald United States Courthouse.

Just last week, the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, which I chair, marked up the House companion bill introduced by Congressman DON YOUNG of Alaska, and I want to thank him for his leadership on this issue.

Judge James M. Fitzgerald had 47 years of experience as a judge, both in the State of Alaska and on the Federal bench. He was one of the first judges appointed to the Superior Court in Alaska when Alaska became a State in 1959 and was later appointed to the Alaska Supreme Court in 1972.

In 1974, President Ford appointed Judge Fitzgerald to the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska, where he remained until his retirement in 2006. I think it is more than fitting that a Federal courthouse in Anchorage bear his name. I support passage of this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1710 and am pleased to speak in support of the bill that names the United States courthouse located at 222 West Seventh Avenue in Anchorage, Alaska, as the James M. Fitzgerald United States Courthouse.

Judge James Martin Fitzgerald is considered one of the founding fathers of law in the State of Alaska. He dedicated his life to public service and was well respected throughout the Alaskan

legal community. Judge Fitzgerald was a World War II veteran, serving in both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marines. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and an Air Medal for his military service and was honorably discharged in December 1946.

After his military service, Judge Fitzgerald earned his LL.B. and B.A. simultaneously from Willamette University and graduated in 1951. Soon after graduation, Judge Fitzgerald was appointed as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Ketchikan, Alaska, and Anchorage, Alaska, earning a reputation as a prosecutor willing to take on corruption in law enforcement. In 1959, he was appointed by the governor of Alaska as the legal counsel for the State, and shortly thereafter was appointed as the State's first commissioner of public safety. Judge Fitzgerald was later appointed as a Superior Court judge in 1959 and in 1972 to the Alaska Supreme Court.

In 1975, President Gerald Ford appointed Judge Fitzgerald as the first district judge for the District of Alaska. Nine years later, Judge Fitzgerald was appointed chief judge for the District of Alaska, where he served until he assumed senior status in 1989. Judge Fitzgerald continued to serve as a judge in Alaska and on the Ninth Circuit until his death on April 3, 2011. In total, Judge Fitzgerald spent 53 years on the bench. Because Judge Fitzgerald took on his first judicial appointment the same year as Alaska achieved statehood, he had a unique role in shaping all Alaskan jurisprudence.

Because of Judge Fitzgerald's service as a member of the U.S. military and his contribution to the Alaskan and the U.S. legal community, it is appropriate to designate the United States courthouse located in Anchorage, Alaska, as the James M. Fitzgerald United States Courthouse. I commend my colleague from Alaska who sponsored this bill for his recognition of the judge, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I do thank the gentleman for yielding.

S. 1710, this legislation, as has been mentioned by both speakers, will name the Federal courthouse in Anchorage after the late Judge James Martin Fitzgerald. James Fitzgerald served Alaska from 1959 to 2006 on the first Alaska Superior Court bench, on the Alaska Supreme Court, and on the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska.

Judge Fitzgerald was an honorable man and represents the best of Alaska in its earliest years as a State. As was mentioned, from his service to his country in the South Pacific during

World War II to the time he served on the State of Alaska's highest court, Judge Fitzgerald always put his country and State first. From 1959 until his retirement in 2006, he served with distinction as a State and Federal judge unanimously praised for his brilliance, his modest nature, and his sense of justice.

In addition to serving as a judge, Judge Fitzgerald was a decorated World War II Marine veteran, a prosecutor, Alaska's first commissioner of public safety, and the initiator of what would become the Alaska State Troopers and the Alaska Village Public Safety Officer Program.

I am proud to have helped championed this legislation to designate the United States courthouse in Anchorage as the James M. Fitzgerald United States Courthouse. He was a great man, and this will ensure his life and accomplishments are properly memorialized in my State. Again, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1710.

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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2842, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SMALL CONDUIT HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL JOBS ACT OF 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-408) on the resolution (H. Res. 570) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2842) to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal Reclamation law, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.