

the loss of a father or mother first responder is financial instability.

Madam Speaker, in my career as a judge and a former prosecutor in Houston, I knew a lot of first responders. Some of them were later killed in public service to our communities. Our Nation's police, firefighters, and EMS workers are our true national treasures. They are the ones that run into burning buildings when everybody else runs out of those burning buildings. They are the ones that put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe and protect our communities. They go into the shadows and dark corners of our society looking for do-bads, outlaws, and social misfits. This work, Madam Speaker, is dangerous.

When these Americans wake up every day, they need to be able to focus on the duty they have before them, and they need to know that if, God forbid, something happens to them on their duty shift, that their family will be taken care of.

For all these reasons, I support H.R. 4018. I urge my colleagues to support it. And once again, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for this legislation.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I understand that the gentleman from Georgia has yielded back his time; if so, I yield back the balance of my time as well.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4018, the "Public Safety Officers' Benefits Improvements Act of 2012," which would modify the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Act (PSOBA) of 1976 which currently provides benefits payments to certain survivors of public safety officers who are killed or permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty. Under current law, the families of public safety officers who have died as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty are eligible for a one-time payment of about \$320,000. Public safety officers who have been permanently disabled are eligible for the same payment, but this payment is subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

As a Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure, I am well aware that there are currently gaps in the laws as it pertains to those safety officers who put their lives on the line but may not have the high profiles of police officers or firefighters. Nevertheless, for those unsung heroes and faithful men and women who continually place their own well being in danger for the sake of saving the lives of strangers, this bill is a mere step in the right direction by expanding the types of benefits available to their families when serious injuries or deaths occur.

H.R. 4018 narrows the eligibility of members of rescue squads or ambulance crews for benefits under the PSOB program; as a result, some individuals would no longer receive benefits that they could receive under current laws.

The bill prevents individuals from receiving certain benefits under the program if they receive payments from the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001. Likewise, this legislation would make many technical and administrative changes that aim to expedite the processing of claims for benefits.

Over the years the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Act has been amended to expand the scope of the definitions "member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew" and "public safety officer." This definition now includes an officially recognized or designated employee or volunteer member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew that is a public agency of a non-profit entity serving the public that is officially authorized or licensed to engage in rescue activity or to provide emergency medical services and that is officially designated as a prehospital emergency medical response agency.

The Act provides death benefits in the form of a single financial payment to eligible survivors of public safety officers whose death is the direct and proximate result of a personal injury during the performance of duty. Additionally the Act provides for financial assistance to help pay higher education costs for the children and spouses of public safety officers for whom disability benefits have been paid.

This bill is needed to efficiently support the families devastated by death or catastrophic injuries sustained while acting in the official capacity of a public safety officer's job. It is my hope that by supporting this bill Congress can come together to better accommodate, acknowledge and assist the brave public safety officers who sustain injuries while serving members of their communities across this great country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4018, 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. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### SERGEANT RICHARD FRANKLIN ABSHIRE POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3412) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1421 Veterans Memorial Drive in Abbeville, Louisiana, as the "Sergeant Richard Franklin Abshire Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3412

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

#### SECTION 1. SERGEANT RICHARD FRANKLIN ABSHIRE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1421 Veterans Memorial Drive in Abbeville, Louisiana, shall be known and designated as the

"Sergeant Richard Franklin Abshire Post Office Building".

(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 Richard Franklin Abshire Post Office Building".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 3412, introduced by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1421 Veterans Memorial Drive in Abbeville, Louisiana, as the Sergeant Richard Franklin Abshire Post Office Building. This bill was introduced on November 14, 2011, and was reported from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on February 7.

Sergeant Richard Franklin Abshire was born on October 20, 1944, in Louisiana and served in the United States Marine Corps. Sergeant Abshire was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism while serving as a platoon sergeant with Company G, Second Battalion, Fourth Marines, Ninth Marine Amphibious Brigade, in connection with operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam on May 2, 1968.

Sergeant Abshire's unit and a sister company launched a coordinated attack against a well entrenched North Vietnamese Army force occupying the village of Dinh To, Quang Tri Province. By his superb leadership, courageous fighting and selfless devotion to duty, Sergeant Abshire inspired all who observed him and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country. Sergeant Abshire died on May 2, 1968.

Madam Speaker, Sergeant Richard Franklin Abshire is a very worthy designee of this postal facility naming. I urge all Members to join me in support of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

As a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I'm pleased to join my colleagues in

consideration of H.R. 3412, to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 1421 Veterans Memorial Drive in Abbeville, Louisiana, as the Sergeant Richard Franklin Abshire Post Office Building.

As was mentioned, Sergeant Richard Abshire served as the platoon sergeant with Company G, Second Battalion, Fourth Marines, Ninth Marines Amphibious Brigade, during the Vietnam War.

As was also mentioned, he was in a heavy firefight. Upon entering the village, Sergeant Abshire and his unit came under heavy enemy fire. The heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire halted the company, and Sergeant Abshire was directed to establish a defensive position with advantageous firing positions.

As the hostilities increased, it became apparent that the Vietnamese were preparing to launch a counter-attack. Sergeant Abshire exposed himself to enemy fire to deploy the grenades that temporarily disoriented the enemy.

Returning to his unit, Sergeant Abshire moved along the line, shouting words of encouragement, and directing his unit's fire. The sergeant then provided covering fire as his unit pulled back. After expending his remaining ammunition, he attempted to rejoin his unit when he was mortally wounded in the head by a burst of enemy fire. Sergeant Abshire was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for his heroic actions leading his unit and ensuring their return to safety.

Madam Speaker, if anyone deserves a postal facility named after them, it is Sergeant Abshire.

I urge the passage of the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to my neighbor from the east, from the great State of Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

Mr. BOUSTANY. I thank my friend from Texas for yielding time to me, and I thank the committee for bringing this resolution to the House floor today.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3412, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1421 Veterans Memorial Drive in Abbeville, Louisiana, as the Sergeant Richard Franklin Abshire Post Office Building, and I want to thank the Oversight and Government Reform Committee for bringing this bill to the floor.

Today, it is really an honor for me to stand here today to celebrate the life of United States Marine Corps Sergeant Richard F. Abshire, an extraordinary hero of the Vietnam War. A native of Abbeville, Louisiana, in my district, the heart of Cajun country, Sergeant Abshire graduated from Abbeville High School in 1962 and then attended the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, my hometown.

Serving in Vietnam from December 1967 until May 1968, a young Sergeant

Abshire had given over 3 years of service to his country in the Marine Corps. On May 2, 1968, while serving in Quang Tri Province in the Republic of Vietnam, Sergeant Abshire led a coordinated attack against an entrenched North Vietnamese force in the village of Dinh To.

Under heavy small arms and automatic weapon fire, Sergeant Abshire displayed extraordinary valor and leadership in leading his men to safety, sacrificing himself in the process.

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Upon entrance to the village of Dinh To, Sergeant Abshire's men began sustaining heavy losses from the better positioned North Vietnamese troops. Acting quickly, the sergeant directed his men to establish a defensive perimeter, aiming a heavy volume of fire into the enemy emplacements. Then realizing the enemy was preparing a counterattack, Sergeant Abshire quickly obtained a number of hand grenades from his fellow marines. Navigating the fiery open terrain while selflessly exposing himself to enemy fire, Abshire threw several grenades toward the enemy, disrupting their attack. Returning to his men, Sergeant Abshire moved from position to position, shouting encouragement and directing fire.

Upon realizing they were dangerously low on ammunition, Abshire directed his men to fall back while he resolutely provided cover fire until they could reach safety. After expending the last of his ammunition, Sergeant Abshire was mortally wounded by a burst of enemy fire, laying down his life for his fellow marines and his country.

Sergeant Abshire's actions are an inspiration to the marines he fought beside and the country he fought for. Because of his heroic actions, he was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for his bravery in a combat zone. Shortly after Sergeant Abshire's death, his mother received the Navy Cross for gallantry on his behalf in Lafayette, Louisiana, from Brigadier General Walter S. McIlhenny.

Today I join the town of Abbeville in honoring this fallen hero with the dedication of their post office to the name of Sergeant Richard Franklin Abshire for his extraordinary valor in battle. As we honor Sergeant Abshire today, we must also recognize our present-day heroes serving around the globe, those who have fallen and those who continue to fight for our freedoms. We thank you as well as the families of all of our Armed Forces.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge passage of H.R. 3412, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I join with the gentleman from Louisiana and the gentleman from Missouri in urging all of my colleagues and House Members to support the passage of H.R. 3412, renaming and creating the

Sergeant Richard Franklin Abshire Post Office.

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. 3412.

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. CLAY. Madam 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### SPC NICHOLAS SCOTT HARTGE POST OFFICE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3501) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 125 Kerr Avenue in Rome City, Indiana, as the "SPC Nicholas Scott Hartge Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3501

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

#### SECTION 1. SPC NICHOLAS SCOTT HARTGE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 125 Kerr Avenue in Rome City, Indiana, shall be known and designated as the "SPC Nicholas Scott Hartge 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 "SPC Nicholas Scott Hartge Post Office".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I also ask unanimous consent that all Members may be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to place extraneous materials 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. H.R. 3501, introduced by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN), would designate the facility of the United States Postal