

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

Service located at 125 Kerr Avenue in Rome City, Indiana, as the SPC Nicholas Scott Hartge Post Office. This bill was introduced on November 18, 2011, and was reported favorably from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on February 7.

Nicholas Hartge grew up in Rome City, Indiana, and during high school decided to serve his country by joining the military. Nicholas served in the Third Platoon in Charlie Company in the First Infantry Division, and his company was deployed to Iraq in August of 2006. Nicholas' commanding officer, Commander Michael Baka, took note of the young man's character and aptitude and helped him begin the process of applying to West Point. While the prospect of becoming an officer thrilled Specialist Hartge, he never deviated from his devotion to his fellow soldiers.

On May 14, 2007, Specialist Hartge's unit came under heavy attack. While maneuvering through enemy fire, the Humvee carrying the specialist was struck by a roadside bomb. Nicholas Hartge received a Commendation Medal for outstanding achievement in the capture of Abu Hassan, a known IED facilitator in Baghdad. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for his heroic actions on the day that he was killed.

Madam Speaker, Specialist Nicholas Scott Hartge is a very worthy and appropriate designee of this postal facility naming, and I urge all Members to join me in support of this bill.

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 rise to join my colleagues in the consideration of 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 measure before us was first introduced on November 18 by my colleague Representative MARLIN STUTZMAN, and in accordance with the committee's requirements, this bill is cosponsored by all members of the Indiana delegation and was reported out of the committee by unanimous consent on February 7, 2012.

Nicholas Hartge was adamant about joining the military after the profound personal effect that the September 11 attacks had on him. He enlisted in the Army before graduating from East Noble High School in Kendallville, Indiana, in 2005. In August of 2006, he was deployed and stationed in Baghdad.

On May 14, 2007, Hartge was killed when the vehicle he was riding in came in contact with an improvised explosive device. Four other soldiers on patrol with Hartge sustained burn wounds on as much as 70 percent of their bodies from the attack.

Nicholas Scott Hartge made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, and his dedication and courage are a testament

to the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. For this reason, the post office in Rome City, Indiana, should be named in his honor. And I ask that we pass the underlying bill to honor the service, sacrifice, and valor of Specialist Nicholas Scott Hartge.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield 5 minutes to my distinguished colleague and friend from the State of Indiana.

Mr. STUTZMAN. I thank the gentleman from Texas as well as the gentleman from Missouri for their support today and for the committee supporting H.R. 3501. I would also like to thank each of the members of the Indiana delegation for their sponsorship of this bill as well.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of 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.

Growing up in Rome City, Indiana, Nicholas served his community with a smile. A Boy Scout, paperboy, wrestler, and member of the marching band, his cheerful manner and work ethic were contagious.

Nicholas decided to enlist in the Army during his junior year of high school. His loving mother, Lori, proudly tells the story of her patriotic son who was so eager to serve his country that a freight train couldn't stop him.

Only a week after graduating, Nicholas left for boot camp at Fort Benning, Georgia. Nicholas chose to serve in the infantry. In August of 2006, he and his unit, First Battalion, 26th Infantry, Brigade Combat Team, First Infantry Division, were deployed to Iraq.

Far from the safety of his Indiana home, Specialist Hartge patrolled the streets of Adhamiyah, a neighborhood in east-central Baghdad. Despite his age, Nicholas' determination and attitude set him apart.

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Members of the 3rd Platoon in Charlie Company knew they could depend on him. In the midst of a war zone, Nicholas served with distinction and earned the respect of his fellow soldiers and commanders. His gifts and strengths were known to those he served with. With the goal of attending West Point, he worked with his commanding officer to prepare himself for the challenges ahead.

During a leave, Specialist Hartge came home and took the SAT test in preparation for West Point. Although he could have taken a different path, Nicholas' devotion to his unit led him to put his pursuit of the academy on hold until he finished his combat tour. Putting aside his own safety, he returned to Iraq to serve alongside his unit.

On May 14, 2007, his patrol came under heavy attack. While navigating

through intense fire, his Humvee hit a roadside bomb. Specialist Hartge lost his life in that attack. Specialist Hartge was awarded the Bronze Star for his final act of heroism.

Hoosiers in Rome City and Americans across the country enjoy our freedoms because heroes like Nicholas and his family have paid the dearest price. We can never take that fact lightly.

Madam Speaker, Specialist Hartge lost his life serving the country he loved. Renaming the post office of the community that loves and remembers him is a small, but important, gesture to recognize this young man.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I urge passage of H.R. 3501, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3501, honoring Specialist Nicholas Scott Hartge; 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. FARENTHOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3501.

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.

FIRST SERGEANT LANDRES CHEEKS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3772) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 150 South Union Street in Canton, Mississippi, as the "First Sergeant Landres Cheeks Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3772

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

SECTION 1. FIRST SERGEANT LANDRES CHEEKS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 150 South Union Street in Canton, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the "First Sergeant Landres Cheeks 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 "First Sergeant Landres Cheeks Post Office Building".