

It is clear that Officer Decker touched many lives during his career. He received numerous awards and commendations for his hard work on the police force. At his memorial service, more than 3,000 police officers, friends, and members of the community gathered to honor his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Tommy Decker made the ultimate sacrifice by trying to help and protect the residents of Cold Spring. He is a true American hero. It is my honor to ask my colleagues to support H.R. 43.

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, we support this. I am delighted to be here on an important afternoon to commemorate the lives of great Americans with these postal namings, which I hope we can do on a bipartisan basis.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN), my distinguished colleague.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and also a great deal of emotion that I stand here today as the representative of the citizens of Cold Spring. In particular, we are here to honor the memory of the fallen, and that is Officer Tommy Decker.

On November 29, 2012, Cold Spring, Minnesota, Police Officer Tommy Decker was tragically killed in the line of duty. He is survived by his wife, Alicia, a wonderful woman who loved him dearly and whom Tommy dearly loved; his four young children, beautiful children, Kelly, Jade, Justin, and Devon; his parents, John and Rosella, pillars in the community of Cold Spring, who did a wonderful job raising their son and who Tommy's mother spoke to just briefly before he went on call for his final end of watch; and his siblings, his colleagues, and the community who dearly loved Tommy Decker.

Before his final act of service to the community that he loved, Tommy served the communities of Isle, Watkins, Kimball, and the Cold Spring/Richmond Police Department. He received several commendations and letters of appreciation for his exemplary work.

How he died is testament to how much Tommy Decker loved his hometown of Cold Spring and the kind of man of character that Tommy Decker was. For a decade, he bravely stood watch. He protected the citizens of central Minnesota with both diligence and a sense of respect.

The overwhelming outpouring of love and support, not only from the Cold Spring community but all Minnesotans in the wake of this unspeakable tragedy, speaks to the impact that Tommy had on countless lives.

While there are no words that could ever properly honor him, renaming his hometown post office in his memory so that his children, his parents, his wife,

his siblings, his colleagues can all point to this memorial with pride and say to their friends, my father, our son, my husband, our brother, our citizen was a hero in our community—he sacrificially gave of his life to our community—therefore, Mr. Speaker, is a fitting tribute to a life well lived and to a man greatly missed.

As the Holy Scriptures teach us, Mr. Speaker, greater love hath no man than this, but that he laid down his life for his friends. Surely, this is what Tommy Decker did for the citizens of Cold Spring.

I join the entire Minnesota House delegation in urging our colleagues to support H.R. 43, to rename the post office in Cold Spring, Minnesota, in honor of him the Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office.

Though Tommy is no longer with us, his legacy and example of courage and compassion lives on.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, at this point we have no one else to speak on this particular bill, so I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. MEADOWS. 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 North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 43.

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 PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

LANCE CORPORAL JOSHUA B. MCDANIELS AND VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1391) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Joshua B. McDaniels and Veterans Memorial Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1391

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

SECTION 1. LONDON FALLEN VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the "London Fallen Veterans Memorial 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 "London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1391, introduced by Representative STIVERS of Ohio and which would designate the postal facility located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, as the London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office. Our Nation's veterans have served our country and many have made the ultimate sacrifice for our defense and our freedom.

Three years ago, a young marine from Mr. STIVERS' district, Corporal Joshua McDaniels, was tragically killed while conducting combat operations in Helmand province in Afghanistan on June 12, 2011. A native of Dublin, Ohio, he was assigned to the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He was only 21 years old.

Men and women like Corporal McDaniels put their lives on the line every day so that we can enjoy the privileges of living in the United States of America. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should thank and honor them, their families, and all the members of the Armed Forces across this great country. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to stand before this body and pay tribute to Corporal McDaniels and all the brave men and women of our armed services.

Once again, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 1391, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation and thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS) for bringing this to the House floor for consideration.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS).

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for his help and the gentleman from Vermont for his support of H.R. 1391. It is a bill that will rename the post office in London, Ohio, the London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office.

This has been an interesting journey. It started a few years ago when I found out about the tragic death of Lance Corporal Joshua McDaniels who had served in the Marines, and we started a bill that would have named the post office after him. Then I heard from some of our Vietnam veterans—17 were killed from London High School in the Vietnam war—and they made the point very strongly and loudly that nothing had ever been named for any of them. While we can never go back and fix the inappropriate way that many of our Vietnam veterans were treated, I thought it was important to move forward in a way that honored their sacrifice as well as Joshua McDaniels' sacrifice and many other individuals from London and Madison County.

Throughout history, citizens from London and Madison County have fought bravely to defend our Nation and defend our freedoms. Unfortunately, many of them have made the ultimate sacrifice, and I would like to read a few of the names here today of the most recent casualties in the wars we are in in Afghanistan and Iraq, or have been in.

First, of course, Marine Lance Corporal Joshua McDaniels; second, Army Corporal Kevin Prince; Army Specialist Jason Lucas; Army Specialist Robert Swaney; and Army Chief Warrant Officer Matthew Ruffner. These are just the most recent members from that community to pay the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.

This bill was a small step to honor the memory of all those in Madison County who have made the ultimate sacrifice, our fallen heroes, including the 17 who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Vietnam war.

Again, while none of us can go back and correct the way that our Vietnam veterans have been treated, I think it is, today, an opportunity for us to recognize those 17 as well as all past and future fallen heroes who have paid the ultimate sacrifice by renaming the London Post Office the Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office.

I want to thank my constituent Mary Henry who came up with the idea for this name. I want to make sure that we always remember the sacrifices of our brave men and women. I think this post office in London, Ohio, can stand as a tribute to all of our past fallen veterans and the future veterans who will pay the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our freedoms.

Thank you again to the gentleman from North Carolina and the gentleman from Vermont. I want to thank Chairman ISSA as well for allowing this bill to come to the floor and his support.

I would urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 1391 to rename the London Post Office the London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of this postal renaming, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank the gentleman from Ohio for his leadership on this particular issue, and specifically with regards to our Vietnam veterans. Indeed, it was a tough time in the service to our country. Many of them never got the welcome home that they deserved when they came back. On behalf of my esteemed colleagues here today and the gentleman from Ohio, I would like to officially tell them, "Welcome home."

With that, I would urge the Members to support this bill and vote unanimously, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1391, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, as the 'London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JAMES R. BURGESS JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1707) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, as the "James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1707

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

SECTION 1. JAMES R. BURGESS JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "James R. Burgess Jr. 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 "James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today to urge support of H.R. 1707, introduced by Representative DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, which would designate the postal facility located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, as the James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building.

Mr. Burgess was born on December 19, 1915, in Algood, Tennessee, and served more than 20 years in the Army, playing a critical role as a leader of the 761st Tank Battalion and the first African-American armored unit to enter the battle in World War II.

At age 29, Mr. Burgess was a first lieutenant in command of one of the six companies who served under General George Patton in Europe.

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Upon his retirement from the U.S. Army, he had reached the rank of major. He passed away in 1997.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Burgess was a trailblazer, a leader, and an American hero. Naming a postal facility in his honor is the least we can do to memorialize his service to our country.

I urge the support of H.R. 1707, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing from Mr. DAVIS as he recounts the extraordinary life, service, and contributions of Mr. Burgess. We fully support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from North Carolina and also my colleague from Vermont for their support of this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James R. Burgess Jr. My bill, H.R. 1707, will designate the post office located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, as the James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building.

Mr. Burgess served more than 20 years in the Army, playing a critical role in a largely unknown part of American military history. He was a leader of the 761st Tank Battalion, which was the first African American armored unit to enter battle in World War II. At the age of 29, Mr. Burgess was a first lieutenant in command of one of the six companies who served under General George Patton in Europe, and upon his retirement from the U.S. Army, Mr. Burgess had reached the rank of major.

After leaving the service in 1962, Mr. Burgess moved his wife and two sons to Champaign, Illinois, so he could attend law school at the University of Illinois, where he graduated 3 years later as the only African American in his class. Mr. Burgess was elected Champaign County State's attorney in 1972 and is still the only African American to be elected to