

a countywide office in Champaign County. Later, he was appointed as a U.S. attorney for a large section of downstate Illinois.

Since Mr. Burgess' passing in 1997, many of my constituents in the 13th District, and especially his son Steve have been looking for a way to commemorate the achievements of his life.

Two years ago, Steve approached me seeking my help to honor the life and legacy of his father. It has taken a lot of time and a lot of work. While I am proud that we are finally to this point, Mr. Speaker, I also have a heavy heart.

Last November, Steve Burgess passed away suddenly. Steve worked tirelessly over the years to get this project to the finish line, and it is truly heart-breaking that he won't be able to see it completed.

Naming this building after Mr. James R. Burgess is but a small token of our gratitude for his service and an honor for his son, my friend, Steve Burgess.

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, the emotion and heart of my colleague, Mr. DAVIS, is evident today on this House floor. Far too often things are done here in a nonpersonal way. But I can tell you for Mr. DAVIS this is personal, and it is a great honor that I support him in H.R. 1707. I also encourage all the Members to support the passage of this bill.

I thank the gentleman for his leadership, 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. 1707.

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.

#### SERGEANT BRETT E. GORNEWICZ MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3472) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13127 Broadway Street in Alden, New York, as the "Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3472

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

#### SECTION 1. SERGEANT BRETT E. GORNEWICZ MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13127 Broadway Street in Alden, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility re-

ferred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz 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 in which to revise and extend their remarks and to 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 in support of H.R. 3472, introduced by Representative COLLINS of New York, which would designate the postal facility located at 13127 Broadway Street in Alden, New York, as the Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office.

Army Sergeant Brett Gornewicz was killed on November 3, 2012, in Paktia province, Afghanistan, when an improvised explosive device detonated nearby. He was killed in the same incident as Specialist Ryan Jayne—whom we are also honoring here today—and Staff Sergeant Dain Taylor Venne, another upstate New Yorker for whom the Oversight and Government Reform Committee has reported a postal-naming bill.

A native of Alden, New York, Sergeant Gornewicz was born in Buffalo on January 6, 1985. After graduating from Alden High School, he earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Buffalo State College.

Sergeant Gornewicz was a man of great humility. So great, in fact, that prior to his death, his family did not know that he had been awarded the Bronze Star with Valor for saving a life during a firefight earlier that year. He was a brave man, serving a tour in Iraq in addition to his deployment to Afghanistan, and performing the highly dangerous job of clearing roadsides of IEDs. Mr. Speaker, his example of courage and strength of character is one that we should strive to follow.

Sergeant Brett Gornewicz is rightly remembered as a hero. At only 27 years old, he made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 3472, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 3472, which would designate the United States postal facility located in Alden, New York, as the Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office.

Once again, we are hearing a story of an extraordinary American, and all of

us are proud to be associated with memorializing that.

I reserve the balance of my time and look forward to hearing from the sponsor, Mr. COLLINS.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. COLLINS), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3472, a bill to rename the U.S. post office in Alden, New York, as the Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office.

It is an honor to sponsor legislation naming a post office in my district after a hometown hero who gave his life serving our country.

I also want to take a moment and thank Senator GILLIBRAND and her staff for their work introducing S. 2056, corresponding Senate legislation to rename the post office.

Naming a postal facility honoring Sergeant Gornewicz is just a small token of our country's appreciation for a soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedom.

In 2006, after being deeply affected by the attacks of 9/11, Sergeant Gornewicz enlisted in the Army Reserves following graduation from Alden High School. From 2007 to 2008, he deployed to Iraq on his first tour and courageously served our country.

Upon his return home to the United States, Sergeant Gornewicz enrolled at Buffalo State College and obtained his degree in mechanical engineering. He was working as a computer-aided designer and mechanical designer for a Tonawanda, New York, company when he again answered the call of duty, returning to Afghanistan for his second tour.

Sergeant Gornewicz is described by many friends and family as a humble leader who always put the needs of others before his own. During his deployment, he displayed this selflessness when he risked his own life to save a fellow soldier during a firefight. He was awarded a Bronze Star with Valor for his actions.

Tragically, during Sergeant Gornewicz's second tour in 2012, his unit was hit by an IED in Afghanistan. The lives of Specialist Ryan Jayne of Corning, New York; Staff Sergeant Dain T. Venne of Port Henry, New York; and Sergeant Gornewicz were lost. At the time of the attack, Sergeant Gornewicz was assigned to the 444th Engineer Company. The company's primary mission was to clear roads of improvised explosive devices.

Sergeant Gornewicz was proud of the small town he came from: Alden, New York. It is my hope that this post office will allow the people of Alden, and those throughout the 27th District, to continue to honor the memory of Sergeant Gornewicz and ensure that his legacy of service and sacrifice lives on.

Renaming a post office is but a small step in recognizing this soldier's bravery and ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. Passage of this bill will exemplify

our admiration for our country's Armed Forces, and will honor one of the many heroes who have sacrificed their lives in the name of freedom.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3472.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for his leadership, not just on this, but for those in Alden and throughout his district.

I urge all Members to support H.R. 3472, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I join Mr. MEADOWS in urging all of my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

Just to comment, listening to Mr. COLLINS and to his predecessors—and we are going to have a few more—it is so amazing to think about these people that live in all of our districts, and what they did quietly with no expectation that anyone would notice or a post office would be named.

The thing I find inspiring, as I am listening to my colleagues, is that it is all really rooted in their local community. We are naming post offices, which is the center of activity for a lot of us, to recognize the everyday accomplishments of people who consider themselves to be everyday Americans, but who are quite extraordinary.

So I thank Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. COLLINS, 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. 3472.

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.

#### THADDEUS STEVENS POST OFFICE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1865) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1865

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

#### SECTION 1. THADDEUS STEVENS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, shall be known and designated as the "Thaddeus Stevens 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 "Thaddeus Stevens 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 in which to revise and extend their remarks and to 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. 1865, introduced by Representative WELCH, my good friend from Vermont, which would designate the postal facility located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the Thaddeus Stevens Post Office.

Thaddeus Stevens was born in Danville, Vermont, on April 4, 1792. He attended nearby Peacham Academy and went on to study at the University of Vermont and Dartmouth College. After graduating from Dartmouth, Stevens moved to Pennsylvania to study law. He practiced law in Gettysburg and spent 4 years as a member of the Pennsylvania State legislature.

Thaddeus Stevens served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1849 to 1853 and from 1859 until his death in 1868. He is best remembered for being a fierce opponent of slavery and discrimination against African Americans. He was instrumental in the passage of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution and fought for African American rights during Reconstruction.

I ask my colleagues to honor the courageous actions and momentous contributions of this great American by voting in favor of H.R. 1865.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I thank my colleague, Mr. MEADOWS. You spoke very well and eloquently about how Vermonters are very proud of Thaddeus Stevens. You gave so much of his biography that I am going to just embrace what you said, but I am going to give you one pronunciation hint: it is Peacham, Vermont. We are going to bring you up there and show you where Thaddeus Stevens was born.

Again, thank you so much for your very gracious remarks about Thaddeus Stevens. We in Vermont are very proud of him, as I think Americans are, for many reasons.

Vermont was the 14th State. We were the first State that banned slavery in its constitution. We were also the first independent republic that had become part of the Union.

Thaddeus Stevens, we would like to think, carried on what was a Vermont

conviction about the freedom of men and women, regardless of race. That conviction was to fight against slavery throughout the most tumultuous times of our republic: the years going up to the Civil War, the years during the Civil War, and then the post-Civil War Reconstruction period.

Some of the most important contributions by the United States Congress occurred after the Civil War, with the passage of, among other things, the 14th Amendment. Thaddeus Stevens was a leading proponent of that 14th Amendment that guaranteed due process of law to all of our citizens, regardless of race. This has been extremely important in our Constitution.

Thaddeus Stevens was a self-made person. He went to a local school. He attended Dartmouth and then went to Pennsylvania to make his mark. He becomes a State legislator. He was elected to Congress in one party, but he later changed. He began in the Anti-Masonic Party, later changed to the Whig Party, and then eventually joined the Republican Party.

All the while, he was guided by a conviction that all men and women are created equal. That is the test that each of us faces: How can we bring to life that constitutional commitment that all of us have embraced?

I would like to thank Senator SANDERS for his leadership in working with the Danville community to draft this bill. Senator SANDERS was also a transplant from Brooklyn, New York. He lived in the Danville area. He has been a lifelong admirer of Thaddeus Stevens.

Senator LEAHY, of course, was also a steadfast supporter in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this bill to acknowledge Thaddeus Stevens' public service and the steadfast dedication that his life represents to the equality of our citizens, regardless of race.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, my apologies to the residents of Peacham, Vermont. I thank my good friend from Vermont.

Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. I urge all Members to support H.R. 1865, 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. 1865.

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.

#### NATIONAL CLANDESTINE SERVICE OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY NCS OFFICER GREGG DAVID WENZEL MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill