

the line of duty as he and a fellow public safety officer responded to a domestic disturbance complaint. Although he later succumbed to his wounds, Officer Bonneau was able to call for help and relay information about the scene that saved the life of his fellow public safety officer who had also been shot, who I have met and talked to and who appreciates his colleague so much for saving his life.

In recognition of his exceptional acts of bravery, Officer Bonneau was awarded the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery in 2011.

□ 1630

Four years after his passing, he remains in the hearts and minds of the Jackson community.

The Officer James Bonneau Memorial Scholarship fund was named in his honor and helps local students who are pursuing a degree in criminal justice.

A graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a degree in criminal justice, Bonneau went on to graduate from Lansing Community College's Mid-Michigan Police Academy at the top of his class academically before joining the Jackson police force.

Being an officer was a job he always wanted to do since he was a kid, according to Officer Bonneau's parents. To those who knew him best, he was described as loyal, genuine, and good-hearted.

In passing this legislation today, we take a small step forward in memorializing his sacrifice and ensuring that future generations remember the heroism of Officer Bonneau. To his mother and father, Amy and Marc Bonneau, and the rest of his family, we offer our sincere gratitude and condolences.

And to his fellow officers at the Jackson Police Department, we thank you, as well, for continuing to put your lives on the line each day as you protect our communities.

As Officer Bonneau's father put it:

It is hard to say, but at least he died loving what he did. That was his dream. That was what he lived for.

Officer James David Bonneau gave his life in service to the Jackson community. We acknowledge his ultimate sacrifice, and we will never forget what he lived for—duty over self.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3534, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3534.

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.

HAROLD GEORGE BENNETT POST OFFICE

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

(H.R. 4355) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the "Harold George Bennett Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4355

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

SECTION 1. HAROLD GEORGE BENNETT POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, shall be known and designated as the "Harold George Bennett 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 "Harold George Bennett Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, 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 Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4355, introduced by Representative TIM GRIFFIN of Arkansas, would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the Harold George Bennett Post Office.

Harold George Bennett was born in Thornburg, Arkansas, in 1940 and joined the Army in 1957 at the beginning of the Vietnam war. He continued his service when he volunteered to serve in South Vietnam as a Special Forces adviser. In late 1964, he was captured after a fierce firefight. After his capture, Bennett was a prisoner of war for 179 days. He was executed by the Viet Cong on June 25, 1965, after injuring an enemy soldier after his third escape attempt. Bennett was 24 years old when he died, and he was the first American POW murdered in Vietnam. His remains have never been returned to the United States, but his bravery and perseverance will be remembered.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 4355, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the Harold George Bennett Post Office.

Harold Bennett was born on October 16, 1940, in Perryville, Arkansas. Bennett and his brothers served in the United States Army. Sergeant George Bennett was trained as an airborne infantryman and served with the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions.

While serving as an infantry adviser to South Vietnam's Army on December 29, 1964, he was airlifted to a village that had been overrun by the Viet Cong. Upon landing, Sergeant Bennett's unit was confronted by enemy forces, and Sergeant Bennett and his radio operator were captured. Sergeant Bennett was the first American prisoner of war to be executed by the Viet Cong.

As a prisoner of war, Sergeant Bennett displayed remarkable courage, resistance, and devotion to his country. He was reportedly executed for injuring one of his captors during one of his three escape attempts. Sergeant Bennett was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

Mr. Speaker, we would urge all Members of the Congress to vote in favor of this legislation, and, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. GRIFFIN), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 4355, to designate the U.S. Post Office located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the "Harold George Bennett Post Office."

Staff Sergeant Harold George Bennett is one of Arkansas' finest sons, and he dedicated his life to serving our country. Sergeant Bennett was born on October 16, 1940, in Thornburg, Arkansas, a small town near the outskirts of the Ouachita National Forest. A graduate of Perryville High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1957.

Sergeant Bennett served as an airborne infantryman with the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions, where he earned his Master Parachute Wings and Expert Infantry Badge. He completed Special Forces training in 1963, and in 1964, volunteered to serve in South Vietnam as a Special Forces adviser with the Military Assistance Command.

On December 29, 1964, his unit was airlifted to a small village after it had been overrun by a division of Viet Cong. Immediately upon landing, Sergeant Bennett's unit was confronted by a well dug-in regiment of enemy forces, and despite fighting furiously and courageously throughout the afternoon, his unit was overrun. Concerned for the safety of his fellow servicemen, he twice directed American helicopter pilots attempting to rescue him to stand down, and was captured by the Viet Cong.

Sergeant Bennett spent 179 days as a POW and attempted to escape three times. During his last attempt, he injured an enemy soldier, and his captors executed him on June 25, 1965. As a

prisoner of war, the only thing more remarkable than the courageous resistance he displayed throughout his captivity was his steadfast devotion to duty, honor, and country. His faith in God and the trust of his fellow prisoners was unshakeable. Only 24 years old, Sergeant Bennett was the first American POW killed in Vietnam, and, like many other U.S. servicemen who lost their lives there, his remains have never been returned home.

Nearly four decades later, in 2004, Sergeant Bennett was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame at Fort Benning. In 2006, his family was presented with his Combat Infantryman's Badge, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Prisoner of War Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, and Purple Heart. And in 2010, Sergeant Bennett's family was presented with his Silver Star.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Bennett was a selfless young man who answered his Nation's call to service and placed duty and honor above all else. Although he may no longer be with us, the example and selflessness of this brave young Arkansan will forever live on in our hearts. While a grateful nation could never adequately express its indebtedness to men like Staff Sergeant Harold George Bennett, it should take every opportunity to honor them and their families for the sacrifice they have paid on our behalf.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4355, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4355.

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.

FOUNTAIN COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2802) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 418 Liberty Street in Covington, Indiana, as the "Fountain County Veterans Memorial Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2802

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

SECTION 1. FOUNTAIN COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 418 Liberty Street in Covington, Indiana, shall be known and designated as the "Fountain County 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 "Fountain County Veterans Memorial Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. 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 material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2802, introduced by Representative TODD ROKITA of Indiana, would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 418 Liberty Street in Covington, Indiana, as the Fountain County Veterans Memorial Post Office.

America as a nation is indebted to those who have risked their lives to preserve the freedoms that each of us holds so dearly. This post office dedication in the county seat of Covington will remind the citizens of Fountain Valley of sacrifices made by its men and women in service of their country. Additionally, naming the post office after the Fountain County veterans honors the families and loved ones who made the unimaginable sacrifice of parting with, and for those still worrying about, cherished loved ones serving overseas.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting H.R. 2802, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 418 Liberty Street in Covington, Indiana, as the Fountain County Veterans Memorial Post Office.

The legislation before us honors the brave men and women from Fountain County, Indiana, who have served in our Armed Forces. These servicemembers have put this country before themselves by dedicating their lives to defending the freedoms we as Americans hold so dear. Their sacrifices should never be taken for granted, nor should they ever be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation, and, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield as many minutes as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA), a distinguished colleague.

Mr. ROKITA. Well, I thank, first of all, the gentleman from Arizona for yielding his time and for his leadership

here in the House of Representatives, especially this evening with the good work that he is managing here on the floor. I know, being his friend, that it is a labor of love for him as it is for almost all of us, and so I just want to, here, on the record, thank him for his continued service in the House.

I also want to thank the ranking member for his willingness in addressing and considering this legislation. It is important to the people of Indiana, and I am grateful for his leadership as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation that I was honored to introduce and support in memory of the fallen soldiers of Fountain County, Indiana.

Lance Corporal Josh Witsman was a marine from Covington, Indiana, and was so very proud to have been born in the United States, and especially Indiana, which he often referred to as "God's country."

Lance Corporal Witsman firmly believed in the freedoms enshrined in our founding documents that have helped define our American exceptionalism. He felt humbled by, honored to, and responsible for fighting to uphold those very freedoms and standards which we talk about so often here on the House floor, and that Americans talk about throughout the country. He was not only humbled to serve his country, but he was humbled to serve next to his fellow military brothers, whom he would often boast to about how great Indiana was.

And, Mr. Speaker, he loved his family. He would often call his mother at home and sing the song, "Paint Me a Birmingham," only to swap in his hometown of Covington for Birmingham. He couldn't wait to return home to Indiana to be with all of them.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, that day never came. You see, Lance Corporal Josh Witsman died in the line of duty during his second tour of duty in Afghanistan while serving with Weapons Company 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, on May 30, 2012. He was just 23.

□ 1645

Josh's service and sacrifice were the inspiration for this bill, and it started with an idea from one of Josh's close friends. That friend, Noah Townsend, was in the supermarket one day, and he overheard a young Hoosier ask her parents who Josh Witsman was.

The child's parents explained that Josh was a soldier who had given his life for her freedom. Noah knew he had to find a way to make sure Josh's memory and his sacrifice would be remembered in his hometown of Covington.

Noah racked his brain for a few days trying to think what would be a fitting memorial for Josh and his service. Later that week, Noah would be driving down Liberty Street, and as he drove past the post office, it hit him—Congress renames post offices for individuals who have made some contribution to their city, State, or country, undoubtedly all deserved.