

After graduating from St. John Vianney High School in Kirkwood, Missouri, Dan attended Southeast Missouri State where he was in the Air Force ROTC program. After graduation, Dan decided to follow his father into the military and joined the U.S. Army, quickly becoming known as "Lieutenant Dan."

Lieutenant Dan became a tank commander, and in 2006, he was deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a member of Demon Company in the First Cavalry Division, Dan served with courage and determination. Despite frequently being outnumbered in enemy territory, Dan was always out on point, leading his platoon into battle. Dan took his leadership responsibilities literally. As he put it, "How can I order my men forward if I'm not willing to go first?"

To those who knew Dan, his devotion to his country through service and sacrifice came as no surprise. He was both a fierce and dedicated warrior in the service of our country and a caring and loving gentleman who felt a duty to help those in need.

From a very young age, Dan showed sensitivity beyond his years. At the age of 5 or 6, while attending a funeral, Dan's mom found him sitting with an elderly woman. When she asked him why he was sitting with her, he said, "She looked sad and lonely." It was this kind of compassion that drew him to the U.S. military, his desire to serve, help, and protect those in need.

While at home on leave from Operation Iraqi Freedom, Dan consistently reassured his family that our country's military efforts were truly bringing empowerment and freedom to the people of Iraq. He believed in a cause greater than himself, that of freedom, democracy, and the dignity of all people.

While in the Army, Dan wrote his mother a letter in case he didn't return. One thing he said was, "Don't mourn for me, mom. Celebrate my life." So today, we celebrate First Lieutenant Daniel P. Riordan's life by designating the Sappington Branch Post Office in St. Louis, Missouri, as the Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office.

The United States of America owes Dan a priceless debt that we will never be able to fully repay, but we can do our part to ensure that his memory lives on; therefore, it is my honor to sponsor H.R. 5386, a bill that names the Sappington Branch Post Office in Missouri's Second Congressional District after such a courageous young man, immortalizing a hero who gave up his life in service to the Nation that he loved.

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

I want to thank the gentlelady for her eloquent description of a brave and strong person and a life well-lived, and I am touched by seeing that photograph of the young, strong, healthy, vibrant man who meant so much to his family, as he did to his country, and

your story about him as a 5-year-old boy, I found quite touching.

There was just something in him that probably did come from his family that made him, even without knowing why, want to serve, and you can just imagine that that carried forward not only to people in his community and family but to the people of Iraq.

I also was reading about how his original objective in the military was to serve as a pilot. We don't know what the story was as to how he ended up in a tank, but what you know about that story is that his fundamental goal was to serve. How he served was secondary.

□ 1445

He was in a tank, which, as we all know, was one of the most dangerous places any of our men and women in service could be during the war in Iraq.

So I want to thank the gentlewoman for a very inspiring and eloquent statement about a life well lived, about a man who gave his life on behalf of all of us in the United States of America.

Mrs. WAGNER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WELCH. I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri.

Mrs. WAGNER. I would like to say that I have had the great pleasure and honor of sponsoring several of these post office namings for our fallen heroes, and I have to say it is one of the most moving, touching, and important things that we can do, I think, for our entire community and certainly for the families. So it is a great privilege and honor for me to support the Riordan family today, and I thank the gentleman for his kind words and the chairman for putting all of this forward.

Mr. WELCH. Likewise, we thank you for doing this.

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

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

In closing, I have no doubt that this will pass, as rightfully it should, but if I can take a moment, looking at that picture of the young lieutenant wearing his cavalry insignia, Armor is the only branch that I know of that has two insignias: one when you are stationed when you have heavy armor, one for the cav.

The fact is, in most wars, the enemy is ahead of you and you look for the enemy. In World War II and Korea, people talked about going to the front. In Iraq, there is no front. So every day Lieutenant Riordan knew he was at the front. Every day he knew in the light-armored vehicle he was riding in that, in fact, an IED could be cranked off either remotely or on his vehicle nearing it at any time.

Our men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are not faced by an enemy who has a front. They are faced by an enemy that almost to a person hides behind improvised explosives. More of our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen have died because of these

devices, not by an enemy at a front, but by a bomb on the road. Lieutenant Riordan was no different.

So when you look at his awards and you look at the way he lived and died, he wasn't fighting a war in which he went to the front to face an enemy; he faced that enemy, and at any moment his life could end, as it did end, by a sneak attack that had no face on it.

The courage of our men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan is greater in many ways than those who had a reprieve from the front from time to time and who knew when they were going toward their enemy, whether it was toward, if you will, heavy fire or sniper. In Iraq and Afghanistan in the past, the present, and now in the future, our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen face an enemy that they will likely never see, and they are in peril virtually every moment of the day and night. That special relationship is one that I hope the American people understand no generation has faced the way this generation faces.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the bill and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5386.

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 CORY MRACEK MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1499) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 278 Main Street in Chadron, Nebraska, as the "Sergeant Cory Mracek Memorial Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1499

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

#### SECTION 1. SERGEANT CORY MRACEK MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 278 Main Street in Chadron, Nebraska, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant Cory Mracek 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 "Sergeant Cory Mracek Memorial Post Office".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. 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 California?

There was no objection.

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

Army Sergeant Mracek was killed on January 27, 2004, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He died of wounds sustained during yet another roadside bomb attack in Iraq. He was only 26 years old, and he had been in Iraq for just 8 days.

Mr. Speaker, loved ones remember Sergeant Mracek as a man who loved Army life and was proud to serve his country. His bravery and his selflessness have inspired us all, and the naming of this post office in his memory is clearly appropriate.

It is my honor to ask the body to honor Sergeant Mracek's service and sacrifice by voting in favor of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting this postal naming bill. I see that we have the sponsor of the bill here.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) to speak directly about this brave American.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. I thank the gentleman. Thank you to Senators JOHANNIS and FISCHER and certainly my colleagues here in the House.

Mr. Speaker, under this legislation, the post office building in Chadron, Nebraska, would be named in honor of Sergeant Cory Mracek, a native of Chadron who was killed by an improvised explosive device in Iraq on January 27, 2004.

The son of Jim and Pat Mracek, Cory originally served with the Nebraska National Guard and transferred to Active Duty, where he served with distinction. Sergeant Mracek reenlisted after the September 11, 2001, attacks where he served as a paratrooper with the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne.

Among other honors, Sergeant Mracek was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his courage and dedication. Renaming the post office in Chadron in Cory's home town will be a symbol of gratitude to a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Mr. WELCH. I want to thank the gentleman for his remarks and for bringing this forward to our attention.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to comment, too, on how this individual, this man, two times in Korea and then decides he is going to go to Iraq, despite the well-known dangers to his own personal safety, again, another example of a brave American who is willing and did sacrifice his life on behalf of the security of this country.

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

Mr. ISSA. 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 California, (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1499.

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.

#### FIRST LIEUTENANT ALVIN CHESTER COCKRELL, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1093) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 Caldwell Drive in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, as the "First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1093

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

#### SECTION 1. FIRST LIEUTENANT ALVIN CHESTER COCKRELL, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 Caldwell Drive in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the "First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, 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 "First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office Building".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. 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 California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1093, introduced by Senator THAD COCHRAN of Mississippi, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 Caldwell Drive in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, as the First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, this is yet another first lieutenant. First Lieutenant Cockrell served his country in World War II. He enlisted in the Marine Corps back in 1937. He was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, Fleet Ma-

rine Force. He landed at Guadalcanal. It was his 24th birthday. It was September 18, 1942. First Lieutenant Cockrell led his platoon in assaulting a strongly held enemy position against heavy machine gun fire. During that battle, charging into the face of machine gun fire, something we know all too well for United States Marines, he was killed in action. He died in that engagement.

Mr. Speaker, we often recognize marines because they have given a great deal in this war, along with the other forces. We often recognize Iraq and Afghanistan, and on occasion, we recognize Vietnam veterans as we did today. It is unusual for this body to reach back, as Senator COCHRAN has done, and find such a fitting individual from a war so long ago, the war that gave us America's Greatest Generation, and realize that we have not yet finished thanking those who gave us the freedom to pursue our lives, every person on the floor perhaps having been born after Lieutenant Cockrell died.

So it is altogether fitting that, as we remember the freedoms we enjoy, the opportunity we enjoy, the economy we enjoy, the lieutenant gave his all for that freedom.

With that, I would urge passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

My colleague mentioned that it is unusual we reach back. I think he would agree with me that it is wise that we do.

World War II changed the world; and we were so committed to the cause of freedom in World War II, and so many of our predecessors, citizens who served and died before we were born, won a war that would have changed the whole future of the world had we not succeeded. It was individual acts of heroism that made the difference.

Mr. Speaker, this life was a life well lived. His life was one dedicated to service, and First Lieutenant Alvin Cockrell deserves to be remembered. It is our responsibility to honor all of those who came before us, the members, as Mr. ISSA said, of the Greatest Generation, who won the most brutal but consequential war that has changed the history of the entire world.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to join with my colleagues in fully supporting the naming of this post office after an American who served his country and gave his life, First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, there is no question at all, this is, again, another befitting naming.

I would like to thank the Senator for reaching back and finding such a worthy candidate, and I would like to remind all of us, coming off of Veterans Day, that, in fact, this generation of veterans is departing but will be remembered in our hearts for the rest of our lives.