

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.

With that, 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. 1093.

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. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 885) 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:

S. 885

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 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 am going to defer my comments since the sole House Member from Vermont is available to make his comments.

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

Mr. WELCH. I thank the gentleman. He is up to his usual courteous efforts, and I really do appreciate it. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are pretty proud in Vermont of Thaddeus Stevens, and we are here today in support of the naming of the post office at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, a tiny community, a proud community, in what is called the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, to name the post office there the Thaddeus Stevens Post Office.

Thaddeus Stevens was born in Danville, Vermont, in 1792. He attended

Peacham Academy. It is still there. He went on to the University of Vermont and then graduated from Dartmouth College. That was in 1814.

□ 1500

He then made a big decision and moved to Pennsylvania to study law, but he never left his Vermont values behind. He was elected to the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives. He served 4 years as a member of the Anti-Masonic Party. In 1849, he was elected to the 34th Congress of the United States, serving as a Whig until 1853—and Mr. ISSA, you'll be happy to know—as a Republican from 1859 until his death in 1868.

As a member of the House of Representatives, he was a very strong voice of opposition to slavery, advocating against the fugitive slave provision in the Compromise of 1850 and actively helping runaway slaves to escape to Canada using the Underground Railroad. We are all proud of that, but in Vermont we are particularly proud that Thaddeus Stevens did this. Our State, Mr. Speaker, was the first State in its Constitution—and we were the 14th State in the Union—to ban slavery. And Thaddeus Stevens took that Vermont point of view and advocated it in the United States House of Representatives.

By 1866, Stevens had helped the Republicans gain control of Congress and set the stage for post-Civil War reconstruction in the South. In his role on the Joint Committee on Reconstruction, Thaddeus Stevens helped draft the Reconstruction Act of 1867 as well as the 14th Amendment, prohibiting States from denying citizens of life, liberty, or property without the due process of law, a constitutional amendment that has done so much to extend the dream in this country of equal opportunity to all of our citizens.

Since Vermont, as I mentioned, was the first State to ban slavery, doing so in its Constitution, I would like to think that Thaddeus Stevens' Vermont beginnings did inform his actions later in life. Today his legacy for promoting and defending equality lives on in Vermont and across the country. I am proud that we are honoring his life's work through the passage of this postal naming bill.

As we prepare to send S. 885 to the President's desk, I would like to thank Senator SANDERS for his leadership in working with the Danville community to draft this bill. Senator SANDERS, when he first came to Vermont so many years ago, lived up to the Northeast Kingdom. I also want to thank Senator LEAHY for his very important support. And I want to thank, of course, Chairman ISSA and Ranking Member CUMMINGS for helping to shepherd this piece of legislation through before the end of this Congress.

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

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

When all speakers have said all that needs to be said and there is only one speaker left, he can't say anything original, so I will simply thank the Congressmen and the Senators for recognizing one of the first Republicans and one of the first Republican principles, one that is no longer owned by any party but in fact owned by all Americans. I move for passage.

I urge support of S. 885, introduced by Senator SANDERS of 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 four 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 S. 885.

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. 885.

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.

SPECIALIST THEODORE MATTHEW GLENDE POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1512) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, as the "Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1512

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

SECTION 1. SPECIALIST THEODORE MATTHEW GLENDE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other