

□ 1856

Ms. DEGETTE changed her vote from “no” to “aye.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for the following vote on July 13, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote 434.

PERMISSION TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 2898

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Natural Resources be authorized to file a supplemental report on the bill H.R. 2898.

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

There was no objection.

JAMES L. OBERSTAR MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 179) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 3rd Avenue, NW, in Chisholm, Minnesota, as the “James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 179

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

SECTION 1. JAMES L. OBERSTAR MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 3rd Avenue, NW, in Chisholm, Minnesota, shall be known and designated as the “James L. Oberstar Memorial 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 L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TROTT). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

□ 1900

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in 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 Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of S. 179, a bill to name a post office in Chisholm, Minnesota, after a very distinguished former Member of this body, Congressman James Oberstar.

The bill was introduced by Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR, and our colleague Congressman RICHARD NOLAN has introduced House companion legislation.

Mr. Oberstar served in the House for a remarkable 36 years, and I think it is very fitting and appropriate to honor his legacy by lending his name to a post office in his hometown of Chisholm.

Congressman Oberstar was born in Chisholm, Minnesota, on September 10, 1934, and graduated from the high school there in 1952. Four years later, he earned a bachelor of arts from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. He later earned a master's degree from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. A lot of people knew he was very fluent in French and liked to express himself on many trips in French.

Before running for Congress himself, Congressman Oberstar served on the staff for Congressman John Blatnik of Minnesota from 1963 to 1974. In that capacity, he worked with Congressman Blatnik on all of the legislation from the Public Works and Transportation Committee. In the last 3 years he was with Congressman Blatnik, Congressman Oberstar became the chief of staff for that committee.

Congressman Oberstar was first elected to represent the people of Minnesota's Eighth District in 1974. Among many notable achievements, he served as chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the 110th and 111th Congresses. In total, he served in 18 Congresses.

Sadly, Mr. Oberstar passed away on May 3, 2014, in Potomac, Maryland. He certainly was a devoted public servant who left a remarkable legacy of service to the citizens of Minnesota and the United States.

Earlier in this Congress, there was another tribute for Congressman Oberstar. At that time, I said this:

It is an astounding figure to think that a man worked on this one committee for 47 years of his life, but he did so with great honor and distinction. In fact, I think most everybody knew that there was no one in the Congress and probably never has been anyone in the history of the Congress who has known transportation issues and understood them and worked on them longer and harder and with more effectiveness than Jim Oberstar did.

At one point, he was chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee. In 1994, after the election, the Republicans took control, and I had the honor of becoming the chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, and I served for 6 years in that position, which was the maximum allowable on our side.

When I took over as chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, I frequently heard Jim Oberstar referred to as “Mr. Aviation.” So I went to him and asked for his help, and he

helped me, guided me, and gave me advice that, to this day, I appreciate very much. He did so in a very kind and humble way.

Of course, then he reached the pinnacle and became chairman of that committee, a committee that he loved. He was a great chairman. He worked across the aisle in a very bipartisan way, and I think he tried to help everyone on both sides of the aisle and others in any way that he possibly could.

I just wanted to join in this opportunity to pay tribute to a man who was a great American and a great Member of this body, Congressman James Oberstar.

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

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

I certainly associate myself with the remarks of Mr. DUNCAN.

I am asking my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 179. That is the bill that would designate a United States post office located at 14 3rd Avenue Northwest in Jim Oberstar's hometown, Chisholm, Minnesota; and it would be called the James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, I am speaking today for a memorial for Jim Oberstar not only because of my position on the committee, but for me, this is an act of love and respect. I am speaking for a man known in this House as one of singular intellect and personal qualities.

Jim was a native of Chisholm. He graduated—and anybody who knew Jim will not be surprised at this—summa cum laude from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota; then he got a master's degree in Belgium. That may be where he picked up his French, which he playfully used on us at every opportunity.

Jim was not long out of college when he began working in this House, and working in this House was to determine his destiny for the rest of his life. He first served as clerk of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors, as it was then called. He became administrator of the Committee on Public Works—now called Transportation and Infrastructure—when Representative John Blatnik became chairman in 1970.

Four years later, Jim, himself, ran for Congress, succeeding Mr. Blatnik who retired from Minnesota's Eighth District of Congress. Then Jim served 36 extraordinary years in this House, and he became the longest serving Member from Minnesota in the House of Representatives. During that period, Jim Oberstar became the leading expert on transportation and infrastructure in the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, for example, he served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Aviation when it passed legislation, increasing our investment in airports and air security, which we are still benefiting from.

Later, he became ranking member of the full committee. There, he worked

tirelessly for something we are trying to get in this House now, for that gas user fee, which used to be bipartisan and was often raised and helped Jim and those who served with him improve and make our system reliable on the transportation and infrastructure that we so often celebrate today—and I mean, all of it, roads, bridges, and transit alike.

We were very fortunate when in 2007, Jim Oberstar was elected chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. It was during his chairmanship that the economy went down; and we really needed an expert on transportation and infrastructure, since investment in transportation and infrastructure is the best investment for the dollar during a recession and that, of course, was the deepest recession since the Great Depression.

Jim's work during that period is still blossoming in the States. He held 300 hearings and passed almost 300 bills and resolutions out of committee and through the House. Nearly 200 of those pieces of legislation were approved by both Houses, including the Water Resources Development Act, the bill that authorized the maintenance and construction of America's harbors, as well as funding for important wildlife habitat projects.

Mr. Speaker, Jim also was a cyclist. He took transportation seriously. He cycled on the trails that he helped get built and that he so loved. His knowledge of our work was so encyclopedic that Democrats and Republicans alike, when Jim spoke, listened hard because they knew they were getting a once-in-a-lifetime lesson in the complexities associated with transportation and infrastructure in our country. He was a particular leader on intermodalism, which we know as the transportation wave of the future today.

It was with enormous sadness that we learned that Jim Oberstar passed away on May 2, 2014. He was 79 years old. Jim will long be remembered for his dedication to public service and for leaving his mark on transportation in our country. It is a mark that will never be erased.

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN), a sponsor of the House companion of S. 179, a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the gentleman who represents the very same district that Jim Oberstar represented.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representative DUNCAN and Representative NORTON for the fine tributes to a fine Member and a real credit to this institution.

This bill honors our friend and our colleague, the late Jim Oberstar, in an important way, by naming the United States post office in his hometown of

Chisholm, Minnesota, the James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office.

I will never forget the first day that Jim walked into the Chamber through one of the side doors over here as a former Member of Congress. As he walked in and proceeded down the aisle, Members recognized him, and they started spontaneously, Democrats and Republicans alike, to applaud Jim Oberstar.

By the time he got to the well, the whole House was engaged in this spontaneous, bipartisan, genuine, loving, and appreciative applause for Jim Oberstar. I, quite frankly, have never seen anything like it. I hope to see a lot more things like it in the days to come, but what a remarkable moment that was.

It was a real genuine spirit of affection for someone who worked really hard, knew his material as well or better than anyone, and was such a good nonpartisan when it came to what is good for America; I have never quite seen anything like it.

Jim received more honors than he could count in life; quite frankly, he received even more in his passing, but I think it is safe to say that no honor would please him more than being recognized by his colleagues in the hometown of Chisholm where Jim grew up.

Chisholm, on Minnesota's Iron Range, is where he learned the value of ideas as a star on his high school debate team. They say he was a pretty good football player, too, but he liked to recall that the editor of his hometown said to him on a couple of occasions, "Jim, you are a really good debater. You really know how to argue. You might want to keep working at that"—and how fitting that he would end up in the Congress of the United States.

It is also in Chisholm where he learned about public service with his first working job for that editor, peddling papers to the miners and to the mining families and learning about the politics of the community. It is also where he learned hard work from his parents. Jim's dad worked in the mines his entire life and hardly ever missed a day's work.

Chisholm is also the place where Jim learned those old-fashioned values that brought him to the House of Representatives.

He believed that a good idea was a good idea, and it didn't matter if it was a Republican idea or a Democratic idea. All that mattered was that someone had offered the idea; and he had such enormous respect for the process and for his colleagues that he gave every good idea an open, an honest, and a fair hearing.

□ 1915

And if it turned out to be something good for the Nation, why, it was good enough for Jim, regardless of the origin.

So, in urging my colleagues to honor Jim by passing this bill, I would like to

ask that we honor him by rededicating ourselves to that spirit of bipartisanship, that spirit of working together, that spirit of getting things done that enabled Jim Oberstar to accomplish the many things that he did that were cited by my colleagues here just a few moments ago. That was the spirit that epitomized Jim Oberstar, and that is how he was so successful in getting things done.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to pass this legislation.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for the time.

I rise to honor the late Jim Oberstar, the Congressman from Minnesota's Eighth District.

For 36 years, Jim Oberstar proudly served the residents of Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District. During his decades of service on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Representative Oberstar made investing in the future prosperity of this country a top priority.

His commitment to laying the foundation for a 21st century transportation system helped make travel safer and kept millions of Americans working on the job and strengthened our economy. He worked and accomplished all of that.

On August 1, 2007, the Interstate 35W bridge collapsed in Minnesota. Thirteen people lost their lives, including some of my constituents, and many more were injured.

Chairman Oberstar moved with incredible speed to draft legislation to respond to the tragedy, and within 48 hours, he had passed a bill on the floor. On August 6, less than 1 week after the disaster, funding for construction of a new bridge was signed into law.

But he didn't stop there. Chairman Oberstar worked to call attention to the epidemic of weak bridges all across our country. He fought to make bridge repair and replacement the focus of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Because of his commitment, thousands of bridges were thoroughly inspected, repaired, or, in fact, replaced.

Not that Jim's response was anything out of the ordinary, throughout his career, Jim remained committed to fighting for the people he served and the causes he believed in.

It is fitting that the post office in Chisholm, Minnesota, will be named the James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office, because we know the success of a post office, after all, is inextricably linked with interstate highways, runways, docks, railways, and roads, because that is how the mail gets delivered and that is how we are connected throughout this world.

The imprint left by Congressman Jim Oberstar on every mode of transportation throughout our country cannot be overstated.

And if I may, on a personal note, Jim, both professionally and personally, helped give the new Congresswoman from Minnesota a lot of thanks.

So, with that, I want to just say, again, it is more than appropriate that the post office in his hometown of Chisholm, Minnesota, be known as the James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building, a testament to his life's work.

Jim, we thank you.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 179, to honor the memory of Jim Oberstar, a colleague, mentor, and friend to me and to many more.

From his time serving as a staff member to his tenure as the chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Jim spent every day of his 47 years on Capitol Hill working to improve our Nation's infrastructure and, in turn, the lives of Americans across the country.

I was proud to serve with Jim on the T and I Committee for 4 years and to share in his passion for all the things that help ensure that our quality of life is high and that our economy is strong.

Jim's thoughtful, forward-thinking approach to our Nation's infrastructure needs was built from years of experience and careful deliberation, and it earned him the well-deserved nickname, Mr. Transportation. During his time as chairman, committee members knew that they were going to learn something when they arrived at the committee room, and they are going to leave on a mission.

Jim was truly a visionary when it came to our Nation's infrastructure system, but he didn't just talk about what needed to be done. Whether it was modernizing our Nation's airspace, improving rail safety, moving freight on time, repairing our roads, rehabilitating transit systems, or advancing cycling, Jim got things done. That is because Jim had a tireless work ethic and was as a great leader and friend as he was a policy expert. Jim treated people well, and it didn't matter whether you were Republican or Democrat; he was willing to work with you and help your district and constituents.

My bicycle is a fixture in my office, and its presence reminds me of Jim and the time I spent cycling with him, when I learned more than I ever expected to be able to learn on a bike ride.

Jim was known for his love of the French language, and he spoke it flawlessly. What fewer people know is that Jim perfected his French while serving in a volunteer program that preceded

the Peace Corps. He was teaching French and Creole to Americans helping out in Haiti.

Jim loved helping people. He was a big promoter of adoption and a defender of life. It was all an outgrowth, I believe, of his strong Catholic faith.

Mr. Speaker, Congress and the Nation are better because of Jim Oberstar, and those of us who worked closely with him are better public servants, colleagues, and people because of him. S. 179 is a fitting tribute to Jim Oberstar, and I urge its passage.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the ranking member and the manager of this legislation.

I have had the privilege of being here during the mighty leadership of Jim Oberstar, and I would really call him America's Congressperson.

He would be an eloquent spokesperson today for not isolating his advocacy for his own region or State, but he would rise up on the floor of the House to speak eloquently about the need for the refurbishing, the rebuilding, the restoration of America's infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, from highways and bridges and dams to airports and train stations and tracks.

Mr. Speaker, I just came in today from Philadelphia on Amtrak, and as you know, on trains, we engage with our fellow travelers. I guess we are called passengers, but we are fellow travelers.

It was interesting to engage with these constituents of America who were using this mode of transportation. They made a very valuable point. They said it is not the equipment of Amtrak or whether the Acela can move faster than any other train, it is the infrastructure upon which the train travels. It is the train tracks. It is the investment in that infrastructure to make Amtrak what it needs to be.

Now, Congressman Oberstar certainly did not live in this part of the country, but he could see the general landscape of what America needed.

I was very interested in hearing my colleague from Minnesota speak of that time when the bridge collapsed. What a tragic incident. All of us were appalled and saddened, and it was amazing how "General Oberstar," if you will, took the leadership role to help America.

So I rise today to support this underlying legislation and to simply thank him and to thank his family for sharing Jim Oberstar, the Frenchman, as he would like to say.

And in concluding my remarks, might I say "merci beaucoup" to you, to the late Jim Oberstar, a man who loved America and could be called America's Congressperson.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Oberstar was a rare Member. He managed to awe us by his knowledge at the same time that he nurtured us with his warmth and his kindness. That is why you have heard Members speak so eloquently about him today. He left his mark in this House.

I am very pleased that, with this bill, he will leave his own mark in his own hometown with a memorial, a post office named for Jim Oberstar. I urge Members of this House to vote for this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I will just close by saying that I am very grateful to Jim Oberstar. He helped me obtain many things for my district. His last year in Congress, in August of that year, he came to my district to dedicate a beautiful new transit center which the city of Knoxville was kind enough to name after me. I always was grateful for his spending that day with me in Knoxville.

I can tell you that I am now in my 27th year in Congress. Twenty-two of those years were spent working with Congressman Oberstar. This Nation, as Mr. LIPINSKI said a few minutes ago, is a better place today because of the work of Congressman Jim Oberstar.

I urge all of my colleagues to support passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 179.

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.

IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, the Supreme Leader's handpicked puppet, Rouhani, prematurely tweeted about what he called a victory of diplomacy and, get this, mutual respect before a nuclear deal between the P5+1 and Iran was actually sealed.

This is the same regime that openly calls for death to America and to our ally, the democratic Jewish State of Israel, and the same despots who support terror all across the globe aimed at U.S. interests.

Now we hear that we may capitulate and end the arms embargo on Iran, its conventional military and ballistic missile program, and that the U.S. will lift all sanctions on day one.

And for what, Mr. Speaker? So that Iran can keep in place every major