

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

I want to thank and congratulate Mr. VALADAO and others who have worked on this bill. It is a commonsense piece of legislation. I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I was privileged to introduce H.R. 3779, the Social Security Fraud Prevention Act, with my friend from California, Congressman VALADAO.

Identity theft is a major and growing problem in our nation. Almost 18 million Americans were victims of this crime in 2014, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Of those who lost money as a result of their victimization, the average loss was over \$1,300.

This is a serious, complicated problem from which no one is immune. As in most complex issues, there is not just one solution. We must attack it from a variety of angles.

For example, the government certainly shouldn't be making identity theft more likely by making it easier for criminals to get people's Social Security Numbers. Puffing aside the merits, the reality is that Social Security Numbers right now are used in many ways to identify people and secure accounts. Having someone's Social Security Number thus can be very helpful in stealing someone's identity.

H.R. 3779 would make it more difficult to steal someone's Social Security Number by prohibiting any federal agency or department from including it on documents sent by mail unless it is determined to be necessary. And, when it is included it would not be visible from the outside of the envelope and would be partially redacted when possible.

This is a common sense, bipartisan bill that is one piece of a larger comprehensive effort we need to successfully combat identity theft. I thank Congressman VALADAO for sponsoring it and working on it with me.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3779. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3779, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### TOM STAGG UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2754) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Fannin Street in Shreveport, Louisiana, as the "Tom Stagg Federal Building and United States Courthouse", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2754

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

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Fannin Street in

Shreveport, Louisiana, shall be known and designated as the "Tom Stagg United States Court House".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Tom Stagg United States Court House".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. 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 S. 2754, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2754, as amended, would designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Fannin Street in Shreveport, Louisiana, as the Tom Stagg United States Court House.

I want to thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING), for his leadership on this legislation.

Judge Stagg served in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. He was appointed to the bench in 1974, served as a chief judge from 1984 to 1991, and assumed senior status in 1992. He served until his death last year. Earlier in his career, he held various executive positions in the private sector and was in the private practice of law.

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Judge Stagg served our country during World War II, during our Greatest Generation, as a U.S. Army captain in the infantry. He earned the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Stars for Valor and Meritorious Service, and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. Judge Stagg's dedication to serving our country is clear, and I believe it is appropriate to name this courthouse after him.

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my colleague from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. Speaker, I also support this bill, as amended, which honors Judge Stagg by naming the Federal courthouse in Shreveport, Louisiana, after him. He served over 40 years, as was noted, as a district judge in the Western District of Louisiana. He was a lifelong Louisianan, who attended Louisiana

State University for both his undergrad and law school education.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this important piece of legislation.

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my colleague, Mr. CARSON. As members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, this isn't unusual where we come together to do important bipartisan pieces of legislation to recognize some of America's heroes.

I urge passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2754, which would name the U.S. Federal Court House in Shreveport, Louisiana after Tom Stagg. Judge Stagg's legacy is one which speaks volumes of his exemplar character and distinguished career as a federal judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

Upon graduation from high school, Judge Stagg valiantly served in WWII where he would rise to the rank of captain and earn the Combat Infantryman Badge, a Bronze Star for Valor, a second Bronze Star for meritorious service, and the Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster. The patriotism and dedication which he exhibited as a soldier was further built upon when he began his career as a jurist. He was nominated to serve as a federal judge for the Western District of Louisiana in 1974. He held the position as chief judge from 1984 to 1991, at which point he assumed senior status and maintained a full caseload until his passing in 2015. A detailed man who commanded respect whenever he entered a room, Judge Stagg was well known for his institutional knowledge, efficiency, and thoroughness during each and every case. He was heavily admired by his colleagues, many of whom believed that his character reflected the most honorable qualities of a judge.

A pillar within his occupation and the salt within his community, Judge Stagg's life was an example to us all. It is more than fitting to honor Judge Stagg's service by naming this court house, a court house which he helped design, after him.

I introduced companion legislation, H.R. 5011, in the House, and I am thankful that we are able to consider S. 2754 today. I ask my colleagues for their support.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2754, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "An Act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Fannin Street in Shreveport, Louisiana, as the 'Tom Stagg United States Court House'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

# R.E. THOMASON FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5873) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 511 East San Antonio Avenue in El Paso, Texas, as the "R.E. Thomason Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5873

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

## SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 511 East San Antonio Avenue in El Paso, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "R.E. Thomason Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

## SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "R.E. Thomason Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. 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 H.R. 5873.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, this is another example of bipartisanship in this great institution. H.R. 5873 would designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 511 East San Antonio Avenue in El Paso, Texas, as the R.E. Thomason Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

Mr. Speaker, as I notice one of my colleagues from Texas here in the Chamber, I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my distinguished colleague, who is willing to go beyond political boundaries to get things done for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I also support this bill, which names the Federal building and U.S. Courthouse in El Paso, Texas, after Judge Thomason. He served as prosecutor, State legislator, mayor, even U.S. Congressman, as well as a Federal Judge.

In his career as a politician, he was known for his commitment to public works and economic development. In his second career as a Federal judge, he was acclaimed for even handling of high-profile cases and managing a considerable workload of civil and criminal cases.

I urge my colleagues to join me in advancing this legislation, which honors a great judge for his dedication to the good of the public.

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O'ROURKE).

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Indiana for yielding to me and for his support of this bill. I would also like to thank my colleague from Illinois for his kind words of support in recognizing the accomplishments of Robert Ewing Thomason, referred to as "R.E." or "Ewing" by his friends in El Paso.

Judge Thomason was truly the best among us, somebody who dedicated his life to public service and to serving others, and someone who really distinguished the community that I am so honored to serve, El Paso, Texas.

He was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1920 and, remarkably, for an El Pasoan and, really, for anyone in the State of Texas, in his second term only, he was elected by his fellow House members to be the Speaker of the House of Representatives in the State of Texas.

This is an accomplishment to which no other El Pasoan since has ever been able to rise. This truly was the high-water mark, at least in State politics, for an El Pasoan to reach. There he distinguished himself with his leadership and with his dedication, not just to our community, but to the State of Texas.

He then served as the mayor of El Paso, Texas, from 1927 to 1930, where he both reflected and truly guided the growth of one of the great American cities and, certainly, the greatest Southwestern city at the time. He was responsible for attracting industry, promoting local businesses, and developing the first municipal airport in El Paso, Texas.

He was then elected to the United States House of Representatives where, again, he served with distinction, rising to the level of the vice chairman of the Armed Services Committee during World War II—I would think, the period of the greatest stress and greatest demand for leadership out of that House committee—and again, he distinguished himself.

But it is truly for his service as a Federal judge for the Western District of Texas that we now remember Judge Thomason. He heard thousands of cases, presided over thousands of citizenship ceremonies.

But the case, Mr. Speaker, that I want to call to everyone's attention began in 1954, when 12 African American El Pasoans attempted to enroll in what was then known as Texas Western College, today known as the University of Texas at El Paso, part of Texas' University of Texas system.

Thelma White and 11 friends, one of whom, Mildred Parish Tutt, is the mother of our colleague, BARBARA LEE, of Oakland, California, these 12 young El Pasoans attempted to enroll at Texas Western College; and, because of the segregation clause in our State's constitution, they were barred entry.

Thelma White, who became the lead plaintiff, enlisted the support and advocacy of future Supreme Court Jurist Thurgood Marshall to promote the idea that no institution of higher learning in the State of Texas should bar anyone, including the African American students in question. That case was heard in the courtroom of Judge Thomason, and, in 1955, he enjoined the State of Texas from barring these students from entry. They were able to go to Texas Western College. It absolutely shattered the concept and practice of all-white higher education in the State of Texas. In fact, he decimated the segregation clause of our State's constitution and destroyed one of the last bastions of segregation in the former Confederacy.

How fitting that his courtroom was in the old Federal courthouse which, today, we seek to name in his honor. And even more fitting is the Tom Lea mural, one of our famous El Paso artists, the Tom Lea mural that graces this Federal courthouse, the old Federal courthouse in El Paso Texas. It has the following legend over the door: "O Pass of the North, Now the Old Giants Are Gone, We Little Men Live Where Heroes Once Walked the Inviolable Earth." A very fitting description of one of the giants that preceded us in El Paso, Texas, Judge Thomason.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is amazing to be able to come to this floor and learn historical facts about other congressional districts. In my district, I am lucky enough to represent part of Abraham Lincoln's old congressional district, so the history involved with Abraham Lincoln and what he meant to this country is something that our textbooks teach.

We come to this House floor to learn about courageous people like Judge Thomason, who served in the executive branch as mayor of El Paso, the legislative branch in the State and here, and then served in the judicial branch. To be honored, I think it is a testament, and I, once again, want to commend my colleague, Mr. O'ROURKE, for bringing this to our attention and for