

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2254.

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.

JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY POST OFFICE

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2464) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 New Chardon Street Lobby in Boston, Massachusetts, as the "John Fitzgerald Kennedy Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2464

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

SECTION 1. JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 New Chardon Street Lobby in Boston, Massachusetts, shall be known and designated as the "John Fitzgerald Kennedy 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 "John Fitzgerald Kennedy Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in 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 Montana?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2464, introduced by Congressman STEPHEN LYNCH from Massachusetts. The bill designates the post office located at 25 New Chardon Street Lobby in Boston, Massachusetts, as the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Post Office.

John F. Kennedy was the 35th President of the United States. During his tenure, he is possibly most famous for his handling of the Cuban missile crisis, preventing a thermonuclear conflict with the former Soviet Union.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of President Kennedy's birth, and we thank him for his service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2464, legislation that I introduced back in May of this year to officially designate the United States Postal Service facility located at 25 New Chardon Street Lobby in Boston, Massachusetts, as the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Post Office.

This bill reflects the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of President John F. Kennedy this year, otherwise known as the JFK Centennial.

I would like to thank our former chairman, Jason Chaffetz of Utah; our current chairman, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. GOWDY); the ranking member, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS); the chairman of our Subcommittee on Government Operations, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS); our ranking member, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY); and all of the Subcommittee on Government Operations for their efforts to move this legislation forward.

I would also like to thank the entire Massachusetts House delegation for their effort in sponsoring this measure.

H.R. 2464 honors the life and enduring legacy of our Nation's 35th President, John F. Kennedy, and his impassioned commitment to public service, equality, peace and diplomacy, and ensuring a better quality of life for every American. Our special remembrance of President Kennedy this year also affords us a distinct opportunity to reflect on and appreciate his vision and wisdom in the context of the many challenges we are facing as a nation today both at home and abroad.

As we grapple with difficult issues ranging from healthcare to economic reform, let us recall President Kennedy's understanding that: "For one true measure of a nation is its success in fulfilling the promise of a better life for each of its members."

And in contemplating issues pertaining to equality and civil rights, we would be wise to remember President Kennedy's advancement of the principle that the rights of every person are diminished when the rights of one person are threatened.

As we continue to address matters of contention with adversarial nations, we must bear in mind President Kennedy's admonition and foresight that "civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof."

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to also thank my colleague and friend, Congressman JOSEPH KENNEDY from the Fourth District of Massachusetts, for his work on this legislation as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 2464.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make the gentleman from California aware that I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill in recognition of President Kennedy's sacrifice for our Nation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2464.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ENDY NDDIOBONG EKPANYA POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 294) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2700 Cullen Boulevard in Pearland, Texas, as the "Endy Nddiobong Ekpanya Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 294

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

SECTION 1. ENDY NDDIOBONG EKPANYA POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2700 Cullen Boulevard in Pearland, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Endy Nddiobong Ekpanya 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 "Endy Nddiobong Ekpanya Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in 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 Montana?

There was no objection.

□ 1730

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 294, introduced by Congressman PETE OLSON of Texas. The bill names the Pearland, Texas, Post Office, located at 2700 Cullen Boulevard, as the Endy Nddiobong Ekpanya Post Office Building in honor of the Pearland police officer who fell in the line of duty in 2015.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON), the sponsor of the bill, so that he can explain the bill.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to thank my friend from Montana for bringing this bill forward this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great day back home in Pearland, Texas, because right now this House is about to honor a fallen hero from Pearland, Endy Ekpanya.

Endy was born in Nigeria in 1985, the same year I graduated from college. When he was 11, his family left Nigeria to come to America to provide a better life for them. They moved to Long Island in 1996. He obtained a degree in psychology and sociology from Hofstra University in New York and later earned his MBA and master's degree in criminal justice from the University of Maryland.

The call to serve his country and his community never left Endy, which is why, after moving to Pearland, Texas, he enrolled in the Alvin Community College Police Academy. He graduated with the 105th class in December of 2015, and he was sworn in as a Pearland police officer 6 months later.

In less than 6 months after December of 2015, his time with us was cut short just 2 days before his 31st birthday. At approximately 4 a.m. on the morning of June 12, 2016, Endy was hit head-on by a drunk driver while responding to an emergency call. He was the first officer to die in Pearland while on duty in over 40 years.

Endy's life embodies the selfless dedication of our law enforcement officials back in Pearland. His sacrifice will never ever be forgotten. That is why I am proud that today this House will pass a bill to name the post office at 2700 Cullen Boulevard after Endy. It will be a source of great pride for our local community and will ensure that his sacrifice is remembered for generations to come.

This small gesture can't make up for the loss of Endy's life. The grief his wife, his young son, and his parents have will never go away. The Pearland community has suffered, but this small gesture is a testament to Endy's commitment to protect and serve. It will be an inspiration for future generations to strive to improve their community just like Endy did in his short time with us.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on this bill.

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

I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 294, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Post Office located at 2700 Cullen Boulevard in Pearland, Texas, as the Endy Nddiobong Ekpanya Post Office.

Endy Ekpanya reflected the best of America. Born in Nigeria in 1985, Endy immigrated to the United States in 1996. Here, he obtained U.S. citizenship, a college education, and two master's degrees.

Endy's deep love of family and community inspired him to join the police force so he could help those in need. He hoped that his hard work in the classroom and the field would help him be a role model for his young son, Julian.

As a rookie member of the Pearland Police Department, Officer Ekpanya took his duty to protect his community seriously but always found a way to brighten his fellow officers' days. Tragically, on June 1, 2016, Officer Ekpanya was killed when a drunk driver struck his police cruiser as he was responding to a call.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to honor Officer Endy Ekpanya's dedication to his education, family, and community, and to remember the sacrifices he made while working to protect those he loved.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 294, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill in recognition of Officer Ekpanya's sacrifice to our Nation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 294.

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.

JAVIER VEGA, JR. MEMORIAL ACT OF 2017

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1617) to designate the checkpoint of the United States Border Patrol located on United States Highway 77 North in Sarita, Texas, as the "Javier Vega, Jr. Border Patrol Checkpoint".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1617

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Javier Vega, Jr. Memorial Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) A native of La Feria, Texas, Border Patrol Agent Javier Vega, Jr., served his country first a member of the United States Marines Corps and then proudly as a border pa-

trol agent in the canine division with his dog, Goldie.

(2) Agent Vega was assigned to the Kingsville, Texas, Border Patrol Station as a canine handler and worked primarily at the Sarita Border Patrol Checkpoint.

(3) On August 3, 2014, Agent Vega was on a fishing trip with his family near Raymondville, Texas, when 2 criminal aliens attempted to rob and attack them.

(4) Agent Vega was shot and killed while attempting to subdue the assailants and protecting his family.

(5) Agent Vega is survived by his wife, parents, 3 sons, brother, sister-in-law, niece, and dog, Goldie.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION.

The checkpoint of the United States Border Patrol located on United States Highway 77 North in Sarita, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Javier Vega, Jr. Border Patrol Checkpoint".

SEC. 4. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the checkpoint described in section 3 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Javier Vega, Jr. Border Patrol Checkpoint".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1617.

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

There was no objection.

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

The Javier Vega, Jr. Memorial Act of 2017 would designate the Border Patrol checkpoint on United States Highway 77 North in Sarita, Texas, as the Javier Vega, Jr. Border Patrol Checkpoint.

After serving his country honorably as a United States Marine, Agent Vega joined the United States Border Patrol in 2008. During his time in the United States Border Patrol, he served as a canine handler and was involved in 42 seizures of narcotics and 38 separate cases involving the apprehension of 238 illegal immigrants. He was a man of honor and duty, a man who loved his family, and a man who would give his life in service to his country.

On August 3, 2014, in Raymondville, Texas, Agent Vega took his wife, three children, and parents out for a day of fishing. While fishing with his family, two illegal immigrants attempted to rob them.

These illegal immigrants had been deported multiple times for various crimes. Law enforcement believed they had conducted a string of similar robberies at the behest of a Mexican cartel.

Agent Vega sprung into action to defend his family. While drawing his firearm, Agent Vega was shot in the chest.