

There are so many men and women in America, Mr. Speaker, who are worthy of celebration, and it seems like we always make time to talk about those things that tear us apart, and we just don't make enough time to talk about those things that bring us together.

Louise was a strident, a fighter for her beliefs, as is any man or woman in this institution, but she never missed a moment to try to bring people together instead of pushing people further apart.

This is a wonderful gesture that the committee is moving forward today.

I hope that all of my colleagues will find, amongst their very busy Tuesday, time to sit back and reflect that they have an opportunity to be a uniter or to be a divider. It doesn't mean you trade away one iota of who you are and what you believe. It is just how do you tell that story, and how do you go about persuading your colleagues that it is true.

Louise gave us a wonderful example every single day of her decade upon decade of service in this institution, and I am honored to have sat across the aisle from her there in the Rules Committee.

Mrs. MILLER. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate the gentleman's comments, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and Mr. WOODALL, whose words prompted me to want to come speak, because I served on the Rules Committee when we were in the majority a number of years ago. Louise was our leader, and she ran that thing with an iron fist. Excellent woman, articulate, powerful, in her tiny little frame. She was somebody who made us stay on task.

We worked a lot of hours on that committee, as I am sure my friend from the Rules Committee would agree, and she was indefatigable. The number of hours that the Rules Committee would meet, and she would make sure we were on task—and a great sense of humor, focused, and smart.

This is really a nice honor that the committee is bringing in her name and in Bob's name. He would be at the committee almost as much as Louise, and they were a great team. I just want to add my word of thanks for this honor for the Slaughters.

Mrs. MILLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, Louise Slaughter was an extraordinary Member of this body. She had a marvelous sense of humor. She was an encyclopedia about the procedures of the Rules Committee, which often mys-

tified many of us. Her heart was in the cause every day.

The last few years she was here were tough. She lost her beloved Bob very suddenly, and she struggled with a lot of health issues in the last year of her life. None of it left her daunted.

□ 1545

She faced every day with an indomitable spirit and will, a commitment to her values and to fighting for her constituents and for those values.

This is the least we can do to honor Louise Slaughter and her husband, Bob. I hope we can do more as we progress, but it is an honor to have served with Louise, and it is a privilege to manage this bill today.

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 Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 540.

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. CONNOLLY. 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 question will be postponed.

#### ARMY SPECIALIST THOMAS J. WILWERTH POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 829) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1450 Montauk Highway in Mastic, New York, as the "Army Specialist Thomas J. Wilwerth Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 829

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

#### SECTION 1. ARMY SPECIALIST THOMAS J. WILWERTH POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1450 Montauk Highway in Mastic, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Army Specialist Thomas J. Wilwerth 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 "Army Specialist Thomas J. Wilwerth Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONNOLLY. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 829 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1450 Montauk Highway in Mastic, New York, as the Army Specialist Thomas J. Wilwerth Post Office Building.

Army Specialist Wilwerth's life was defined by a call to service. While still a junior in high school, Thomas felt the call to serve his country in the years after 9/11, and he made the decision to join the Army to defend his country.

After finishing his senior year, during which he also served in the Army Reserves, Thomas was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division based out of Fort Carson, Colorado.

In December 2005, Thomas was deployed to Iraq, and he served selflessly with his division as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While on deployment, he was tragically taken from us on February 22, 2006, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

At just 21 years of age, Thomas' tragic death serves to remind us all of the human cost of war. He demonstrated in his short life, Mr. Speaker, the kind of commitment and service to this great country that is an example to all of us.

Naming a post office in his honor in his hometown of Mastic, New York, is the least we can do as a country to honor and remember a young man who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to all of us.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 829 introduced by Representative LEE ZELDIN. The bill names a post office located in Mastic, New York, in honor of Army Specialist Thomas J. Wilwerth.

Specialist Wilwerth joined the United States Army while he was still in high school. He felt called to defend our Nation after the terrorist attacks on September 11. After graduating high school, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team based out of Fort Carson, Colorado.

In December 2005, Specialist Wilwerth was deployed to fight in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On February 22, 2006, Specialist Wilwerth and two others in his unit were killed by an improvised explosive device.

Specialist Thomas Wilwerth was 21 years old when he gave his life in service to his Nation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN).

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in strong support of H.R. 829, my legislation to honor the life and legacy of Army Specialist Thomas J. Wilwerth by renaming, in his name, the post office in his hometown of Mastic, New York.

Specialist Thomas Wilwerth always possessed a strong sense of duty to his country, having participated in the Junior ROTC program at William Floyd High School, where I once graduated as well. But it was in our Nation's darkest hour that 17-year-old Specialist Wilwerth was driven to enlist.

During his junior year of high school, Specialist Wilwerth bore witness to the unimaginable horror of September 11, with Ground Zero just under 100 miles from his high school. Instead of cowering in the face of terror, he shipped off to basic training that summer and actually finished high school while serving in the Army Reserve.

As a member of 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division based out of Fort Carson, Colorado, Wilwerth was deployed to Iraq in 2005 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It was only 3 months into his deployment on February 22, 2006, that 21-year-old Specialist Wilwerth and two of his fellow soldiers were killed in action when an explosive device detonated near his Bradley Fighting Vehicle while on a routine morning patrol near Balad, Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I wish there were more people who possessed such a strong sense of patriotism. Even fewer answer the call at just the age of 17 and sacrifice their entire lives and their entire future to serve in the U.S. military.

Specialist Wilwerth was the best of who we are. He is the embodiment of what makes this country the greatest in the world: the willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice serving this most exceptional Nation, and the willingness to lay down one's life for his neighbors, for his community, but most courageously, for those Americans he never knew.

Before serving in Congress, I was in the New York Senate, and I introduced a bill that also became law, the Specialist Thomas J. Wilwerth Military Dignity Act, to ban protests at military burials in my home State.

It is my greatest honor to stand here on the House floor today to speak about this new legislation in honor of Thomas.

Specialist Wilwerth is survived by his loving parents, Elaine and Terry Wilwerth, and his sister, Kerry. There are no words to describe the emptiness this loss left in their hearts and in the heart of our entire community.

Before I close, I would like to read a few words from the Wilwerth family that really drive home why this straightforward legislation will have such a profound impact.

The Wilwerth family said: "Tommy died so that his fellow Americans could live a better life. His deep-rooted sense of patriotism drove him to enlist in the aftermath of September 11, and he would have been so proud of his sacrifice on behalf of our entire Nation."

"To have his name and legacy displayed in the heart of the community he loved—the community he laid his life down for—will never bring him home, but it will ensure his memory and sacrifice live on in the hearts of those who call Long Island home."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I thank both Members who have spoken in its favor today.

Mrs. MILLER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, as Mr. ZELDIN indicated, there is nothing we can do, not this action, that can really make up for the loss of a loved one, even in the time of war. But we can, as a grateful Nation, explain our appreciation and gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice that was made, and that is what we are doing today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 829.

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. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### CHANGING THE ADDRESS OF THE CAPTAIN HUMAYUN KHAN POST OFFICE

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 725) to change the address of the postal facility designated in honor of Captain Humayun Khan.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 725

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

#### SECTION 1. CAPTAIN HUMAYUN KHAN POST OFFICE.

Section 1(a) of Public Law 115-347 (132 Stat. 5054) is amended by striking "180 McCormick Road" and inserting "2150 Wise Street".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONNOLLY. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues today in consideration of S. 725, a bill to change the address of the postal facility designated in honor of Captain Humayun Khan. Captain Khan was an extraordinary military officer and an American hero who lived in this country since he was 2 years old.

Mr. Khan represented the best of what it means to be an American. Growing up, he was captivated with the writings of Thomas Jefferson and his writings on freedom. It was at the school Jefferson founded, the University of Virginia, that Mr. Khan learned to put those ideas into practice. There, he joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

After graduation, Mr. Khan put his dreams of becoming a lawyer on hold to serve the American people on Active Duty in Iraq.

On June 8, 2004, while serving with the 201st Battalion of the 1st Infantry Division, tragically, Captain Khan was killed. While visiting the Guard personnel on his day off, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Khan was killed by an improvised bomb outside Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

It is to honor the life and memory of Captain Khan that we today dedicate this post office in Charlottesville, the home of his alma mater and the beginning of his distinguished military service, in his name.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill that makes a technical change to correct the address of a post office named last Congress.

The post office is named after Captain Humayun Khan, who sacrificed his life in service of our country.

Captain Khan served in the Army Reserves while he studied at the University of Virginia and was commissioned as an officer after he graduated in 2000. In 2004, he was deployed to Iraq, and he was killed on June 8, 2004.

This bill corrects the address, to ensure that the correct facility is named in Captain Khan's honor.

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

□ 1600

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from West Virginia. I