

LANCE CPL. STACY “ANNIE”
DRYDEN POST OFFICE

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4875) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2201 E. Maple Street in North Canton, Ohio, as the “Lance Cpl. Stacy ‘Annie’ Dryden Post Office”, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4875

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

SECTION 1. LANCE CPL. STACY “ANNIE” DRYDEN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2201 E. Maple Street in North Canton, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the “Lance Cpl. Stacy ‘Annie’ Dryden 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 “Lance Cpl. Stacy ‘Annie’ Dryden Post Office”.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM ACT

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5901) to establish a program to facilitate the adoption of modern technology by executive agencies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5901

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 “Information Technology Modernization Centers of Excellence Program Act”.

SEC. 2. GSA MODERNIZATION CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CLOUD COMPUTING.—The term “cloud computing” has the meaning given the term in section 1076 of the National Defense Au-

thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (40 U.S.C. 11301 note).

(2) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “executive agency” has the meaning given the term “Executive agency” in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means the Information Technology Modernization Centers of Excellence Program established under subsection (b).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of General Services shall establish a program to be known as the Information Technology Modernization Centers of Excellence Program to facilitate the adoption of modern technology by executive agencies on a reimbursable basis.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Program shall have the following responsibilities:

(1) To encourage the modernization of information technology used by an executive agency and how a customer interacts with an executive agency.

(2) To improve cooperation between commercial and executive agency information technology sectors.

(3) To the extent practicable, encourage the adoption of commercial items in accordance with section 3307 of title 41, United States Code.

(4) Upon request by the executive agency, to assist executive agencies with planning and adoption of technology in focus areas designated by the Administrator, which may include the following:

(A) A commercial cloud computing system that includes—

(i) end-to-end migration planning and an assessment of progress towards modernization; and

(ii) a cybersecurity and governance framework that promotes industry and government risk management best practice approaches, prioritizing efforts based on risk, impact, and consequences.

(B) Tools to help an individual receive support from and communicate with an executive agency.

(C) Contact centers and other related customer supports.

(D) Efficient use of data management, analysis, and reporting.

(E) The optimization of infrastructure, including for data centers, and the reduction of operating costs.

(F) Artificial intelligence.

(5) To share best practices and expertise with executive agencies.

(6) Other responsibilities the Administrator may identify.

(d) COORDINATION.—The Administrator shall coordinate with the Secretary of Homeland Security in establishing the Program to ensure that the technology, tools, and frameworks facilitated for executive agencies by the Program provide sufficient cybersecurity and maintain the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of Federal information.

(e) PROGRAM REPORTING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every year thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the Program, which shall include the following:

(1) A description of the reimbursable agreements, statements of work, and associated project schedules and deliverables for the Program.

(2) Details on the total amount of the reimbursable agreements.

(3) Any additional information the Administrator determines necessary.

(f) SUNSET.—This Act shall cease to have effect on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the authority delegated by law to an executive agency or the head of an executive agency.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

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 about the measure before us.

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, the Information Technology Modernization Centers of Excellence Program Act is the product of great bipartisan work between Representative RO KHANNA and the ranking member of our committee, Mr. COMER.

Since 2017, the Centers of Excellence have provided state-of-the-art technical expertise to assist Federal agencies with their IT modernization so that they can serve the American people more effectively.

The program aims to leverage private-sector innovation and centralized expertise to help the Federal Government improve its services to the public, deploy cutting-edge technology, attract top talent to its workforce, enhance its cybersecurity, and optimize the data resources available to it.

Today, six Centers of Excellence support agencies in the strategic competency areas of artificial intelligence, cloud adoption, contact centers, customer experience, data and analytics, and infrastructure optimization.

This bill would codify that program and to support agencies in efficiently improving customer service, implementing cloud computing systems and data management, optimizing IT infrastructure, and sharing best practices and expertise.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations with responsibility for Federal IT modernization, I have kept a close eye on this program since its inception, and I intend to keep a close eye as it continues to put its mission and goals into practice.

I applaud the improvements made to the bill to ensure that assistance is

provided to agencies by request on a reimbursable and transparent basis.

I support the commonsense bill before us to modernize and improve the functioning of the Federal Government.

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 in support of H.R. 5901, the Information Technology Modernization Centers of Excellence Program Act. This bill will help our government catch up with private-sector innovations by equipping agencies to take advantage of modern information technology solutions.

Federal agencies remain challenged by inefficient, costly, and unwieldy legacy technology systems that do not adequately deliver citizen services and allow agencies to achieve their legally mandated missions.

For example, the Government Accountability Office has reported that, between 2010 and 2017, the Federal Government spent over \$450 billion just maintaining outdated legacy IT systems. That is over 70 percent of the government's entire IT budget.

There is increasingly less and less Federal IT funding available for new agency modernization projects. The government needs to take advantage of the cutting-edge technology solutions already being used by the private sector.

Recognizing the need for a different approach to transition large Federal agency technology projects, the Centers of Excellence were established by the Trump administration at the General Services Administration to help agencies overcome persistent modernization challenges.

These challenges include identifying the best new technology solutions, purchasing that technology, and then integrating that technology into an agency's unique operations and workflows. The GSA Centers of Excellence teams serve as change management consultants that bring private-sector best practices to Federal agency technology challenges.

By adopting commercially available solutions, in conjunction with deliberate enterprise-wide transformation planning, agencies can effectively transition into modern operating environments. By improving the operational efficiency of our Federal agency programs and mission, we can save taxpayer dollars.

While modernizing government is good for the taxpayer, the Centers of Excellence also deliver an additional benefit to Americans by bringing a central focus to improving agency delivery on constituent services.

H.R. 5901 promises to make the citizens' engagement with our government programs more intuitive and straightforward, like an engagement with a modern business.

I am well aware of the challenges faced by veterans, senior citizens, and

businesses when interacting with the Federal Government. I am sure that my colleagues are as well.

The current pandemic has shown how critical it is for all Americans to be able to effectively and reliably interact with government agencies. It is time the Federal Government leveraged modern cloud computing systems, data-driven analytic capabilities, artificial intelligence, and modern customer experience tools to offer the highest level of service possible.

H.R. 5901 will give congressional backing and ensure regular oversight of the existing GSA program in order to accomplish these goals.

By giving legal authority to the program, we are also ensuring the program's stability through the next two Presidential administrations, which is critical to gaining agency buy-in and having the time to realize the benefits of this new modernization approach.

The Congressional Budget Office's review of this bill found that it will have no budgetary impact, which shows that there are still legislative opportunities to modernize the government without spending additional taxpayer funds.

I hope the House Oversight and Reform Committee and this Congress can continue to work together on similar legislative reforms to bring our government into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for their bipartisan work on this bill. I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 5901, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA), the author of this bill.

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman CONNOLLY for his leadership on this, on FITARA, and on so many efforts to bring technology to our government. I thank the gentlewoman from West Virginia and the bipartisan committee that has helped bring this legislation to the floor, including the majority and minority staffs.

Mr. Speaker, we worked with the White House Office of Innovation and Matt Lira on this. The idea was very simple. We in the Federal Government should have cutting-edge technology in our Federal agencies. As a representative of Silicon Valley, it has always perplexed me why the world's greatest institution, the strongest institution, the United States Government, can't adopt the latest technology.

What this bill does is says that we need to have digital expertise in the General Service Administration, about 50 to 150 individuals who will help all of our Federal agencies adopt cloud computing, adopt artificial intelligence, adopt the latest technology modernization and infrastructure, adopt the best digital practices for customer service.

We want our Federal Government to be user friendly. We want our Federal Government to use all the tools of technology to be competitive, to be the leader in the world. That is what this bill does.

I want to applaud the bipartisan spirit in which this bill came to the floor. It was originally the White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows who was the cosponsor of the legislation. I thank him, as well as the cosponsor, now the ranking member, Representative RICE. On the Senate side, we have bipartisan commitment from the leadership of Senator PORTMAN and Senator MAGGIE HASSAN. So I am hopeful that this will actually become law and allow us to continue to compete.

I just want to end by thanking Geo Saba, a staff member who was extraordinarily helpful on this; as well as, again, the committee staff that has been excellent to work with; and, of course, Chairwoman CAROLYN MALONEY, who helped bring this to the floor.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a good bill. I think as Mr. KHANNA indicated, it adds to the corpus of information technology legislation where we are trying to modernize the Federal Government; we are trying to retire legacy systems; we are trying to move to the cloud for cyber reasons, for efficiency reasons, and to be of better service to the American people.

I think this is another piece in that mosaic, and I urge its passage by our colleagues here in the House.

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. 5901, 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.

CHAI SUTHAMMANONT REMEMBRANCE ACT OF 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7340) to ensure that personal protective equipment and other equipment and supplies needed to fight coronavirus are provided to employees required to return to Federal offices, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7340

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 "Chai Suthammanont Remembrance Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. TELEWORK, LEAVE, AND RETURNING TO WORK FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) ISSUANCE OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES BY AGENCIES.—Not later than 30 days before