

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this commonsense bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1258, 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.

ALL-AMERICAN FLAG ACT

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1973) to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1973

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 “All-American Flag Act”.

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR AGENCIES TO BUY DOMESTICALLY MADE UNITED STATES FLAGS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR AGENCIES TO BUY DOMESTICALLY MADE UNITED STATES FLAGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 63 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 6310. Requirement for agencies to buy domestically made United States flags

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in subsections (b) through (d), funds appropriated or otherwise available to an agency may not be used for the procurement of any flag of the United States, unless such flag has been 100 percent manufactured in the United States from articles, materials, or supplies that have been grown or 100 percent produced or manufactured in the United States.

“(b) AVAILABILITY EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the extent that the head of the agency concerned determines that satisfactory quality and sufficient quantity of a flag described in such subsection cannot be procured as and when needed at United States market prices.

“(c) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PROCUREMENTS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the following:

“(1) Procurements by vessels in foreign waters.

“(2) Procurements for resale purposes in any military commissary, military exchange, or nonappropriated fund instrumentality operated by an agency.

“(3) Procurements for amounts less than the simplified acquisition threshold.

“(d) PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the requirement in subsection (a) if the President determines a waiver is necessary to comply with any trade agreement to which the United States is a party.

“(2) NOTICE OF WAIVER.—Not later than 30 days after granting a waiver under paragraph (1), the President shall publish a notice of the waiver in the Federal Register.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the meaning given the term ‘executive agency’ in section 102 of title 40.

“(2) SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.—The term ‘simplified acquisition threshold’ has the meaning given that term in section 134.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“6310. Requirement for agencies to buy domestically made United States flags.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Section 6310 of title 41, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), shall apply with respect to any contract entered into on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MACE. 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 South Carolina?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, American flags should be made in America. This bill ensures that the Federal Government buys U.S. flags that are made from 100 percent American materials.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Census data, in 2017, the U.S. imported 10 million American flags. Of those, all but 50,000 came from China.

The Department of Defense and individual military departments are already generally required to buy American flags that are made entirely of U.S. materials, but civilian agencies do not have such restrictions. The All-American Flag Act applies current DOD requirements and exceptions across the government.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the House companion bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the American flag should be made in the USA. The All-American Flag Act is a bipartisan bill that I invite all Members to support. It would require all Federal agencies to purchase American flags that are manufactured right here in the USA, using materials grown and produced in the United States.

Under current law, this requirement applies only to the DOD and VA. This bill would extend it to all Federal agencies. I commend the gentleman

from Illinois (Mr. SORESENSEN), our distinguished colleague and the author of the House bill, for his diligent and important work on this issue.

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

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SORESENSEN).

Mr. SORESENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) and the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) for working on this effort with me.

Today, I ask this governing body: What is the most American thing that Members can think of? Is it George Washington, who looks over us? Is it the dome of the Capitol Building, under which Members do the work of the people?

Mr. Speaker, I believe the most American thing is the symbol that flies on my home in Moline, Illinois, on top of this important building, on the back of every ship that carries our military, and which is displayed so proudly behind the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here and see S. 1973, the All-American Flag Act, considered on the floor of the House of Representatives. Under current law, the government can buy flags that contain just 50 percent American-made materials, but I believe that American flags, paid for by American taxpayers, should be entirely made in the greatest country in the world, by the greatest workers in the world.

My bill would require the Federal Government to buy flags that are manufactured 100 percent in the United States, with materials 100 percent grown or produced in the United States.

In 2021, my home State of Illinois passed a law that all American flags purchased must be American made.

This legislation will bring the values of our neighbors back home to the Federal Government. Whether it is over a post office in Kewanee, Illinois, accompanying our troops to battle, or on a casket of a fallen hero, our patriotism has to begin and end here in this country.

In 1906, George Cohan wrote “You’re a Grand Old Flag.” The song’s signature lyric, “She’s a Grand Old Flag,” came from a conversation that he had with a Civil War veteran who fought at Gettysburg.

My bill will ensure that all grand flags are made in this grand land. I am proud to see my bill come to the House floor today, and I urge all of my patriotic colleagues to be proud of their support for its swift passage and for our great Nation.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill to ensure American flags are made right here in America. This is something every American can get behind.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support sending this legislation to the President's desk, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SORESENSEN), and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1973.

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.

LABRUCE "BRUCE" TIDWELL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6162) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 379 North Oates Street in Dothan, Alabama, as the "LaBruce 'Bruce' Tidwell Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6162

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

SECTION 1. LABRUCE "BRUCE" TIDWELL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 379 North Oates Street in Dothan, Alabama, shall be known and designated as the "LaBruce 'Bruce' Tidwell 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 "LaBruce 'Bruce' Tidwell Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MACE. 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 gentlewoman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6162, which would name a post office in Dothan, Alabama, as the LaBruce "Bruce" Tidwell Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, Bruce Tidwell, a U.S. Navy veteran, served the community of Dothan, Alabama, as a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service for many

years. It is fitting that this post office being renamed is in the community where Mr. Tidwell worked.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6162.

Mr. Tidwell was a lifelong resident of Dothan, Alabama. For 86 years, he was committed to a life of public service. He joined the Navy during World War II and was a radio operator. Following the war, he returned to his hometown and took a job at the oil mill.

Mr. Tidwell performed an essential role as a letter carrier for the Postal Service until he retired in 1985. In 2009, he moved to Raleigh, North Carolina. He passed away in 2012 at 89 years old.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to honor the life of Bruce Tidwell and his wonderful career in the Postal Service by naming the post office in Dothan, Alabama, after him, and I am pleased to offer my support for this legislation.

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

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Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6162, my legislation to name the post office located at 379 North Oates Street in Dothan, Alabama, as the LaBruce "Bruce" Tidwell Post Office Building.

Bruce Tidwell enlisted in the United States Navy in 1943 and served as a radio operator on the LCT 801.

Born and raised in Dothan, Bruce returned to Dothan after the war ended in 1945 and began working at the Dothan Oil Mill.

After a few years, Bruce decided he wanted to become a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service.

From radio room to mail room, the Navy veteran, Bruce Tidwell, was dedicated to serving his State and his country.

Bruce was known for altering his usual mail route during the Vietnam war in order to ensure that those families with servicemembers received letters from home as quickly as possible because he knew how much that would mean to those families. He walked the route, and he changed the route to make sure those families got those letters to home.

He was beloved by the Dothan community where he lived for 86 years. There is no better post office to rename than the exact location in Dothan where Bruce worked.

I thank my Alabama colleagues and my colleagues here, Representative ADERHOLT, Representative CARL, Representative PALMER, Representative ROGERS, and Representative SEWELL, as well as Representative STRONG for their support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation in honor of Mr. Bruce.

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

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my House colleagues to support this bill honoring an American veteran, hero, and postal letter carrier.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6162.

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 MERCER LANGSTON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7385) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 29 Franklin Street in Petersburg, Virginia, as the "John Mercer Langston Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7385

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

SECTION 1. JOHN MERCER LANGSTON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 29 Franklin Street in Petersburg, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "John Mercer Langston 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 "John Mercer Langston Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MACE. 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 gentlewoman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office in Petersburg, Virginia, for Mr. John Mercer Langston.

Mr. Langston grew up in Ohio and became an attorney who helped recruit African-American troops during the American Civil War. Later, Mr. Langston went on to serve as Virginia's first African-American Member