

SEC. 8. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDING.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURLISON. 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 9595, the FIT Procurement Act. This bill streamlines the procurement process for small businesses and small transactions and would enable the government to take full advantage of commercial best practices.

This legislation achieves this in three ways: first, by increasing the micro purchase threshold, or the MPT, from \$10,000 to \$25,000; second, by increasing the simplified acquisition threshold, or the SAT, from \$250,000 to \$500,000; and, third, by authorizing advance payments for certain types of software and cloud computing.

On the first, I would note that purchases under the MPT, which currently account for a tiny fraction of overall government contract spending, do not require the involvement of a Federal contracting officer. For this reason, raising the MPT from \$10,000 to \$25,000 is estimated by George Mason's Baroni Center for Government Contracting to save more than \$40 million annually in Federal administrative costs. This allows contracting officers to focus more time on larger acquisitions, where the potential for waste, fraud, and abuse is far greater.

Further, purchases above the MPT and below the SAT are subject to simplified procedures in order to reduce administrative costs and promote opportunities for small businesses.

By increasing the SAT from \$250,000 to \$500,000, this bill provides opportunities for small businesses and reduces administrative burdens for smaller government contracts.

Finally, by allowing for advance payments for software services, this bill saves taxpayer dollars by allowing Federal agencies to access the discounts that are currently available through upfront payments to the private sector.

I thank Chairman COMER and his staff for working with me on this effort in the Oversight Committee, and I thank Senators PETERS and CRUZ for leading the Senate companion to this legislation.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 9595, the FIT Procurement Act. This bill is modeled after a bipartisan Senate bill led by Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman GARY PETERS, along with Senator CRUZ.

The act streamlines and simplifies Federal procurement to help agencies acquire commercial technology in a timelier way and to make it easier for businesses to compete for contracts.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to support this bill today. I associate myself with the remarks of the distinguished gentleman from Missouri. I urge passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, which will streamline the procurement process for small businesses and small transactions, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9595.

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.

1ST LIEUTENANT ANDRES
ZERMENO POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6244) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1535 East Los Ebanos Boulevard in Brownsville, Texas, as the "1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeno Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6244

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

SECTION 1. 1ST LIEUTENANT ANDRES ZERMENO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1535 East Los Ebanos Boulevard in Brownsville, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeno 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 "1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeno Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURLISON. 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURLISON. 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 Texas after 1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeno. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 6244, introduced by Congressman VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, which would honor the impressive legacy and the sacrifice of 1st Lieutenant Zermeno by naming a post office after him in Brownsville.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ).

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 6244, to rename the post office located at 1535 East Los Ebanos Boulevard in Brownsville, Texas, after 1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeno.

Mr. Speaker, 1st Lieutenant Zermeno was born November 30, 1984, in Brownsville, Texas. He went on to graduate from St. Mary's University in San Antonio. While a student at St. Mary's, he participated in the university's ROTC program and enlisted in the Texas National Guard.

After graduating from St. Mary's, he was commissioned into the United States Army as a first lieutenant. On September 25, 2011, while serving in a combat operation known as Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, while on patrol, 1st Lieutenant Zermeno was sadly killed in action by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Lieutenant Zermeno is a hero who laid down his life to protect our freedoms, leaving his loving wife and two children behind.

By passing H.R. 6244, we as a nation will honor 1st Lieutenant Zermeno and the sacrifice he made on behalf of our great Nation. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in honoring the life and legacy of an American hero.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his compelling remarks, and I support passage of H.R. 6244. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill to designate a post office for 1st Lieutenant Zermeno, an American war hero who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6244.

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.

SERGEANT MAJOR BILLY D.
WAUGH POST OFFICE

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3946) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1106 Main Street in Bastrop, Texas, as the "Sergeant Major Billy D. Waugh Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3946

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

SECTION 1. SERGEANT MAJOR BILLY D. WAUGH POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1106 Main Street in Bastrop, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant Major Billy D. Waugh 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 "Sergeant Major Billy D. Waugh Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURLISON. 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURLISON. 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 located in Texas in honor of Sergeant Major Billy D. Waugh.

Sergeant Major Waugh served for five decades as an Army paratrooper, Special Forces soldier, combat veteran, USPS mail handler, and CIA paramilitary operations officer. He passed away in April 2023.

I support naming a post office in honor of Sergeant Major Waugh, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Just to complete a little bit of the portrait of Sergeant Major Waugh, which was begun by Mr. BURLISON, Sergeant Major Waugh also served in the Green Berets within the U.S. Army Special Forces in 1954.

When he retired from the Army, he returned to serve as a paramilitary officer within the CIA Special Activities Division. Waugh was one of the oldest

field operatives at the age of 71, providing critical intelligence and guidance to Afghan troops.

In his career, he earned a Silver Star, four Bronze Stars, eight Purple Hearts, and the CIA's Intelligence Star. He passed away in April 2023 at 93 years old.

The legislation would honor his legacy, his extraordinary more-than-50-year military career, and his dedication to the country by naming a post office after him in his hometown of Bastrop, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL).

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, you and I just returned from Luxembourg to honor the veterans of World War II who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. I was there on behalf of the House of Representatives at the Speaker's request to honor the Greatest Generation and their sacrifices to defeat evil and ensure that freedom would persevere.

□ 1815

Those soldiers that braved the Nazi onslaught and the frozen forest of the Ardennes to liberate Europe are known as the Greatest Generation.

Sergeant Major Billy D. Waugh was part of that great generation. The service website military.com, using the colloquial name for Special Forces made famous during the Vietnam war, called Mr. Waugh, "the unparalleled godfather of the Green Berets," for his long years of service and numerous missions with them.

He led a lifelong commitment to his country from a young age. He understood, as Reagan did, that freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for and protected.

Sergeant Major Waugh was born in 1929 and raised in Bastrop, Texas, in my district, and in 1945, after meeting two local United States Marines who returned from fighting World War II, the then 15-year-old Mr. Waugh was inspired to enlist in the Marine Corps.

Knowing that it was unlikely that he would be allowed to enlist in Texas due to his young age, Waugh decided to hitchhike to Los Angeles where he believed he only had to be 16 years of age.

He got as far as Las Cruces, New Mexico, before being turned around and sent back to Bastrop by a local police officer. That shows you the amount of patriotism this young 15-year-old had. Later, in 1948, he did enlist and serve his country as an Army paratrooper and Special Forces soldier until 1972.

Sergeant Major Waugh was no stranger to the front and served 7 years in combat during the Korean and Vietnam wars where he was shot multiple times. While in combat, he was part of a high-altitude, low-opening, or HALO, parachute assault, the first of its kind in military history.

For his service, Sergeant Major Waugh received dozens of military awards and medals, including the Silver Star, four Bronze Stars, a Presidential Unit Citation, and eight Purple Hearts for his combat wounds, placing him third on the list of most Purple Hearts ever received in the history of the United States military.

After retirement, he joined the United States Postal Service before again serving his country as a paramilitary operations officer in the Central Intelligence Agency where he pursued terrorists, including Carlos the Jackal and Osama Bin Laden.

Mr. Waugh never lost his sense of duty, patriotism, and his enduring love of freedom. At the age of 71 Mr. Waugh participated in Operation Enduring Freedom from October to December 2001 as a member of the CIA's Northern Alliance Liaison Team, which went into Afghanistan to work to topple the Taliban regime and al-Qaida at the Battle of Tora Bora.

Sergeant Major Billy D. Waugh passed away last year at the age of 93. He epitomized the American values of courage, patriotism, and self-sacrifice. Through his unparalleled life of service, he undoubtedly saved countless American lives and pushed back terrorism and evil around the world.

After a life of service to his country, it is only fitting that the post office located 1106 Main Street in Bastrop, Texas, be named after him.

Naming this post office after him is a testament to a life well lived and an opportunity for all Texans to pay homage to this great American hero.

I am inspired by him, as I know are all Americans. We are inspired that he is from Texas. I support this measure, and may God hold Sergeant Major Waugh in the palm of his hand.

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

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my House colleagues to support this bill honoring Sergeant Major Waugh, an American hero, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3946.

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.

CHANCE TO COMPETE ACT OF 2024

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 59) to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows: