

LEGISLATION TO NAME POST OFFICE IN HONOR OF ROGER P. McAULIFFE

HON. MICHAEL PATRICK FLANAGAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 17, 1996*

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation, with the cosponsorship of the entire Illinois House delegation and the chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight's Subcommittee on Postal Service, to rename the Dunning Post Office in the 14th State House District of Illinois the "Roger P. McAuliffe Post Office."

Illinois State Representative Roger McAuliffe tragically lost his life in a boating accident over the recent Fourth of July weekend. Roger was a constituent of mine who represented his district on Chicago's Northwest Side as well as several suburbs including Park Ridge, Rosemont, Norridge, and Schiller Park.

Roger was the dean of the Illinois State House Republicans, having served in the Illinois General Assembly from 1973 until the day of his tragic fatal accident. A number of members of our Illinois House delegation served with Roger in the Illinois General Assembly and they have all told me that it was an honor to have been in the legislature with him. Roger was serving as an assistant majority leader in the Illinois House at the time of his death.

Roger was an informal advisor to me in Chicago area matters. He always had sound advice on legislation that had an impact on Chicago and its suburbs. Other members have time and again lauded Roger's useful insights to them as well.

Roger was a 1956 graduate of my own alma mater, Lane Technical High School. He began his public service career path when he served in the U.S. Army from 1961 to 1963. Roger graduated from the Chicago Police Academy in 1965 and was a Chicago police officer ever since. Roger never wanted any preferential treatment because of his being a State Representative. He always refused the opportunity for any promotions and preferred to stay a patrolman all his life. At the time of his death, Roger was still serving proudly as a Chicago patrolman.

Roger was well respected and well liked by Republicans and Democrats alike and that undoubtedly is a key reason why this legislation has such broad bipartisan support. The Dunning Post Office that this legislation would rename after Roger P. McAuliffe is not only in the 5th Congressional District of Illinois but, also, as noted previously, in Roger's 14th State House District. I can think of no finer action that can be taken to forever honor the

dedicated public service of Roger P. McAuliffe than to rename the Dunning Post Office in Chicago, IL, the "Roger P. McAuliffe Post Office."

TRIBUTE TO RETIRED TEACHER AND CHURCH VOLUNTEER ROBERT H. STEVENS, SR.

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 17, 1996*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Robert H. Stevens, Sr., a man whose selfless devotion to his family, faith, and the entire community has touched the lives of so many people from my hometown of Westhampton Beach, Long Island.

As a teacher, a volunteer, and a humble man of faith, Robert Stevens has set a standard that will be felt for generations to come, as each of his nine children, and their children in turn, live that example every day. While some men change the course of history in full view of the world, men like Robert Stevens affect our Nation's destiny with simple acts of charity, repeated every day over the course of a lifetime.

I know Robert Stevens because we share common roots: both of us were born and raised in Westhampton Beach, and left to attend college in Albany, NY, where Bob attended the State teachers college. Like so many men of his generation, his plans for the future were interrupted during World War II, when he was stationed half a world away in the China/India/Burma theater. For 4 years, Bob served as a gunnery and armament staff officer with the Air Service Maintenance Division, until the war ended.

From within that horrific war emerged many small miracles, and one of them touched Robert Stevens. While stationed in India, he met his beautiful wife, the former Margaret Lettington. The daughter of a British Army major with the Royal Engineers, Margaret was born and raised in India and didn't leave that country until she married Bob. They were married on June 6, 1945, and left together later that year to start a new life in Westhampton Beach.

Together, Margaret and Robert raised nine exceptional children, now ranging in ages between 49 and 33, most of whom still make their home on Long Island. Their children are Joan Urban, Robert H. Stevens Jr., Patricia Damrow, Anne Kowalski, Paul Stevens, Katherine O'Cain, Margaret Rattoballi, Joseph Stevens, and Mary Stevens. Supporting such a large family could not have been easy on a

teacher's salary, but Robert and Margaret didn't do it with money, they reared their children with an abundance of love and firm guidance. The Stevens children are living proof that their parents possessed a wealth of those parental gifts.

The number of young lives that Bob has shaped extends far beyond his own children. During a 34-year tenure as a French and social studies teacher in the Riverhead School District, Bob was a gifted educator who continually gave of himself to his students, serving as an advisor to the French Club and organizing countless field trips to the theaters and museums in New York City. He also served as a Cub Scout and Boy Scout Master in Westhampton Beach for 10 years.

Fortified by faith, Robert has a seemingly endless supply of energy when it comes to finding time for his church. For 20 years, Robert has been a trustee at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Quogue, where the Stevens family have been an integral part of the musical worship during the Sunday morning service. Bob sang with the choir for 29 years and led the congregation in song as the head cantor, while Margaret accompanied him as organist. He is also a charter member of the Knights of Columbus Father Joseph Slomski Council No. 7423 in Westhampton Beach.

Bob has also been the chairman of the Bishops' Annual Appeal, the diocese's annual fundraising effort among its parishes. After retiring from teaching Robert worked as the church sexton, maintaining the facilities at the church, its rectory, and the School of Religious Education.

On June 6, 1995, Margaret and Robert celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Six months later, Robert lost the love of his life when Margaret left this world after a valiant battle against cancer. All who were blessed to know Margaret were saddened by her passing, and none more than Bob. With an unwavering faith, a divine trust that blessed him with 50 joyous years with a truly wonderful woman, Bob takes solace in the fact that Margaret rests near God's side.

Though it is a principle that has lost popularity in today's society, Robert H. Stevens, Sr., has always trusted in God's plan for his life, allowing him to accept the Lord's blessing that he in turn passed on to the world. Bob's enduring legacy is that he proves to all of us that an extraordinary life is composed of an endless succession of ordinary acts of charity and faith. Faith can move mountains, and Robert Stevens has showed that every single one of us can change the course of our Nation's destiny from within small villages like Westhampton Beach. May God bless him.