

Whereas, with strength, courage, wit, and creativity, Irish-Americans have flourished, making significant contributions in all areas of American life;

Whereas Irish-American writers such as Eugene O'Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and George Bernard Shaw transformed American literature, entrepreneurs like Henry Ford helped revolutionize American transportation and industry, performers such as Gregory Peck, John Wayne, and Helen Hayes enriched the arts, and social reformers such as suffragist Leonora Barry and labor organizer Mary Kenney O'Sullivan fought for the rights of others;

Whereas Irish-Americans have served ably in their communities in numerous capacities, such as public safety and government, including four-term New York State Governor Alfred E. Smith, and in the Armed Services in every war in which the United States has ever fought, including patriots such as Audie Murphy, America's most decorated soldier of World War II;

Whereas approximately one in four Americans trace at least part of their ancestry to Ireland;

Whereas generations of Irish-Americans have worked alongside their fellow Americans to build a more perfect Union, and the United States is a stronger country because of them;

Whereas it is fitting that the House of Representatives honor the rich heritage, enduring contributions, and firm values of the Irish-Americans who continue to enrich and strengthen American families, communities, ideals, and character; and

Whereas President Barack Obama proclaimed March 2009 as Irish-American Heritage Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the significant contributions of Irish-Americans in the history and progress of United States; and

(2) encourages Americans to celebrate Irish-American heritage with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, representing the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and being one of Irish heritage, I am happy to rise in support of this resolution, House Resolution 254, which is a bill to recognize the importance of Irish-American heritage and to honor the significance of Irish-Americans in the history of the United States.

This bill was introduced by my friend and colleague last month, CAROLYN MCCARTHY of New York, on St. Patrick's Day, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform amended the measure on April 2 in order that it be reported by unanimous consent.

House Resolution 254 gives the Members of this Chamber the chance to honor the valuable contributions that Americans of Irish heritage have made to our country since its inception. In fact, nine of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were men of Irish origin, and Irish-Americans have served in the Armed Services for this country in every war in which the United States has ever fought. At least 19 Presidents of the United States can claim Irish heritage, including our current President, Barack Obama.

The works of Eugene O'Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald and George Bernard Shaw remain invaluable parts of our literary history. Artists including Gregory Peck, John Wayne and Helen Hayes have helped enrich our Nation's culture, and social reformers such as suffragist Leonora Barry and labor organizer Mary Kenny O'Sullivan fought to extend basic rights to others. Henry Ford's assembly line revolutionized manufacturing, and Irish immigrants who settled here in the 1840s helped to make our largest cities into centers of commerce and industry.

I would like to thank my colleague, the gentlelady from New York, CAROLYN MCCARTHY, for sponsoring this measure. I would also like to thank the ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), for helping us to get it to the floor today.

Many emigrated here from Ireland, hoping to share in our freedom and prosperity. In turn, they have helped to make our country great. For their countless contributions to American history and progress, I urge my colleagues to support the quick passage of House Resolution 254.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

What began with 300,000 Irish immigrants in 1776 has grown to more than 44 million Irish-Americans today. Throughout our Nation's history, the Irish who came to America saw the promise and hope for their future. Once here, they have been instrumental in building a Nation from the ground up—working on farms, constructing railroads and creating major centers of commerce throughout the country. The Irish have done much to build up this country with their blood, sweat and tears. We have all seen countless ways in which these Irish-Americans have advanced our Nation politically, economically and culturally.

Since first arriving here, the Irish in America have demonstrated a commitment to the growth and prosperity of the Nation through their talent and their values. Their contributions have represented the depth and breadth of American society from the most humble to the most exalted. Nineteen Presidents, including George Washington, and at least eight signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish ancestry. Two hundred sixty-

three recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor were born in Ireland, and the list of contributions by Irish-Americans goes on: Elizabeth Cady Stanton's successful fight for women's voting rights; John Barry, the first flag officer of the United States Navy; James Hoban's architectural design for the White House; and Annie Moore's brave passage through Ellis Island as America's first immigrant.

The Irish in America have recognized and have spread the message of opportunity as a result of their great success in our country. The history of our country has shown that the Irish have strengthened the United States in all facets of our growth and development. One in four Americans can trace part of their ancestry to Ireland, including ancestors on my mother's side of my family. Therefore, it is no wonder that the Irish in America have in the past and will continue in the future to strengthen and enrich our country.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution.

Having no additional speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to thank the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY). As others are, she is also traveling to Washington at this time, and wanted to be here for this resolution. I ask our colleagues to join Member CAROLYN MCCARTHY in supporting the resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 254, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "A Resolution recognizing the contributions of Irish-Americans in the history and progress of the United States."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING KENTUCKY ICE STORM VOLUNTEERS

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 214) recognizing the efforts of the countless volunteers who helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from the ice storm of January 2009.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 214

Whereas the Commonwealth of Kentucky suffered a devastating ice storm on January 26, 2009, that left more than 700,000 homes and businesses without electricity;

Whereas the ice storm is considered the worst natural disaster in Kentucky history;

Whereas State and local officials acted quickly to coordinate relief efforts and enlisted volunteer agencies, faith-based groups, and community organizations;

Whereas volunteers from 25 organizations in 15 States came to the Commonwealth of Kentucky to provide help and support to those affected by the ice storm;

Whereas volunteers operated 192 shelters for victims of the ice storm, providing 7,884 Kentuckians with shelter, food, and water;

Whereas more than 378,160 meals and snacks were provided to victims of the ice storm by volunteers;

Whereas these volunteers played a key role in Kentucky's recovery efforts and gave their valuable time and resources to offer support;

Whereas 4,600 members of the Kentucky National Guard were activated to assist the citizens of the Commonwealth; and

Whereas the resolve, courage, and determination shown by the citizens of the Commonwealth was commendable: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes the efforts of the countless volunteers who helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from the ice storm of January 2009.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I join my colleagues in support of House Resolution 214, which recognizes the efforts of volunteers from across the country who helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from a devastating ice storm in January 2009.

I would like to thank our colleague Mr. BRETT GUTHRIE from Kentucky for sponsoring this thoughtful resolution which was introduced on March 5, 2009. I would also like to commend my colleagues on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for acting so quickly to bring this measure to the floor. Additionally, this measure has the support and cosponsorship of 59 Members of Congress, which of course include the entire House delegation from Kentucky.

As many Americans are aware, the Commonwealth of Kentucky suffered a horrendous ice storm on January 26, 2009. More than 700,000 homes and businesses were left without power. Sadly, some estimated 200,000 Americans found themselves without access to water and other basic necessities. In fact, the dreadful ice storm that hit a number of States in the Midwest in addition to the State of Kentucky back in January has been considered the

worst natural disaster in Kentucky's history.

As expected, when Americans saw their fellow countrymen in need of help and assistance, support poured into the State of Kentucky immediately following the storm's devastating effect. For example, State and local officials acted quickly to band together in order to coordinate the relief efforts and to ultimately save lives. Volunteer agencies, faith-based groups and community organizations from 15 States came to the aid of Kentucky's cities and neighborhoods, and nearly 200 make-shift shelters provided refuge for almost 8,000 Kentuckians. While certainly tragic in nature, the ice storm once again demonstrated the unyielding resolve of Americans to work together to ensure the common good of the neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important that we as Members of the House of Representatives take a moment to recognize the supportive efforts of the Kentucky National Guard as some 4,600 guardsmen went door to door throughout the affected communities to make certain that no citizen was beyond the reach of a helpful hand. For their commitment, we say thank you, and for their service, we say a job well done.

In closing, House Resolution 214 is designed to simply recognize the Commonwealth of Kentucky for showing incredible resolve in the face of disaster. The selflessness exhibited by volunteers and aid agencies speaks volumes about the American spirit.

That said, Mr. Speaker, as Kentucky and their neighboring Midwestern States continue to pick up the pieces, let us take pause to acknowledge those who came to the aid of these Americans in their time of need.

With that, I urge support for House Resolution 214, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 214, recognizing the efforts of the countless volunteers who helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from the ice storm of January 2009.

This past January, the massive ice storm that devastated States from Arkansas to West Virginia hit Kentucky the hardest, leaving more than 700,000 homes and businesses without electricity. This violent storm was Kentucky's worst natural disaster in the State's history as it pounded the area with an inch or more of ice, causing trees and power lines to fall, forcing Statewide evacuations, schools and businesses to close, fuel shortages, as well as causing debris to block more than 5,000 linear miles of roads following the storm. The ice storm left more than 35 people dead, making this the State's most lethal storm in memory and one of Kentucky's deadliest modern weather events.

On January 27, the Kentucky Governor declared a state of emergency for

roughly 100 counties, all of which President Obama soon after declared as Federal disaster areas. The Governor also for the first time activated every member of Kentucky's National Guard, dispatching all 4,600 guardsmen to assist with the crisis. With around-the-clock help from local, State and Federal officials and emergency personnel, many working in subzero conditions for days, relief efforts were carried out quickly and safely.

It is important that we recognize the generous support of the many volunteers, private and corporate donors, religious groups, and charitable organizations that assisted the communities in Kentucky in their time of need. This resolution expresses a sincere sympathy for the victims of this devastating storm, and recognizes the action of their public servants, citizens and community leaders who helped hundreds of thousands through this Statewide hardship.

Once again, we are reminded of the strength of the people of this country, and applaud the citizens of Kentucky who in this very difficult time became beacons of light for those who suffered as a result of this icy disaster.

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH).

□ 1545

Mr. YARMUTH. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to first thank my distinguished colleague from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) for his leadership in introducing H. Res. 214 and also the entire Kentucky delegation for supporting this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the thousands of generous and dedicated Kentuckians who took action in the wake of the catastrophic ice storms that hit the Commonwealth on January 26 of this year.

In a week's time, all eyes will turn towards my hometown of Louisville for the 135th running of the Kentucky Derby, sports' most exciting 2 minutes. The mood will be jubilant, and justifiably so, but it could not be so if not for the round-the-clock dedication of thousands of volunteers, first responders and National Guard who spared our region from lasting devastation.

The storm created the worst power outages in Kentucky history, and of the 3,000 streets in Louisville, not one was spared from fallen trees, power lines and other wreckage, leaving our city with enough debris to fill Cardinal Stadium. Thousands were displaced, but they were not alone. Neighbors helped neighbors and people from all walks of life rose to the occasion to provide food and shelter to those in need.

Tragically, a family of three from my community was killed by carbon monoxide poisoning from an enclosed generator, a loss mourned by the entire

Commonwealth. But thanks to the efforts of our tireless first responders—police, firefighters and National Guard—untold lives were saved. These men and women walked in freezing temperatures knocking on door after door to ensure that no more families would be subjected to toxic fumes.

Thanks to the leadership of Governor Steve Beshear, Mayor Jerry Abramson, Brigadier General John Heltzel, and countless other officials, the damage was minimized and attention has now turned to the massive cleanup. With 220 men and women working 12-hour days, 7 days a week in Louisville alone, more than half a city has been fully restored, and the rest is not far behind.

But it is the unbridled spirit of thousands of volunteers who have given us new cause to rejoice in this Derby season, again making our Commonwealth great to visit and a place we love to call home. On behalf of thousands of Kentuckians who suffered in that tragic storm, and the thousands more who helped mitigate that suffering, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the many outstanding individuals who made that possible. But while we continue to mourn the losses, we must also celebrate a job very well done.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE).

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, as the author of House Resolution 214, I am proud that we're here today to recognize the efforts of countless volunteers who helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from the ice storm of January 2009.

Today I rise to recognize what went well following this terrible storm, and that is the volunteers who made a distinct difference in the lives of many Kentuckians.

I traveled across the district in the days following the January 26 storm, and I was quickly reminded of how the people of Kentucky joined together in this time of need to serve each other and not themselves. This may have been the worst natural disaster in Kentucky's history, but it brought about the best of our people.

The spirit of volunteerism was seen in county after county and town after town as we all united around a common purpose—to help the countless citizens affected by this devastating storm cope with the aftermath and begin with the recovery process.

Kentucky State and local officials should be praised for their efforts to enlist the help of volunteer agencies, faith-based groups and community organizations that quickly realized the needs that resulted from the ice storm would far exceed what the government could provide. So they asked churches, nonprofit organizations, school groups and many others to help, and help they did.

In the days following the storms, I watched with pride as volunteers pro-

vided shelter, meals and other valuable services to lend a hand to many of the people in my district and around Kentucky. I watched the members of the Kentucky National Guard, who were activated to help, and volunteer the use of their personal vehicles to rescue stranded victims. Many public service officers, police officers, first responders, firefighters, and many utility people were out 24 hours a day. And I watched 4-H and Homemakers Clubs plan to serve meals to 75 people but to find the extra resources to serve nearly 200 instead.

While there are many efforts that should be praised today, I am reminded of the effort coordinated in Ohio County by Ms. Charlotte Whittaker who volunteered to organize her county's shelter. Within 48 hours of the storm, Ms. Whittaker opened the doors to a shelter at Southern Elementary School where nearly 400 people from 21 months old to 98 years old found relief in shelters in the days that followed. Nearly 450 volunteers, many young people in high school and college, operated the shelter for 12 days by serving meals, cleaning dirty laundry, sweeping floors, organizing donated clothing and doing whatever needed to be done to help.

The volunteers came from many different States. I talked with a nurse from Alabama and a member of the Red Cross from Indiana and electrical crews from across the Southeast, Midwest, and Mid-Atlantic. I appreciate all of them traveling to give their valuable time and talents. When I visited this shelter, I quickly realized that lives were saved because of Ms. Whittaker's efforts and the many others who volunteered to help in Ohio County.

This is just one example of the many endeavors that took place across Kentucky. No matter the size of the volunteer efforts, they all made a difference in saving lives and helping the Commonwealth of Kentucky get back on its feet after this terrible storm. The volunteers played a key role and should be praised for giving up their valuable time and resources to offer support. They are a true testament to the American spirit.

I want to thank my colleagues from Kentucky for being extremely supportive of this effort in recognizing the volunteers. I want to thank my colleague from our great City of Louisville for being here on the floor today. And I want to thank everybody who helped our Commonwealth recover from this terrible disaster we endured this year.

I ask for my colleagues' support.

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, in Kentucky we have a very important motto: "United We Stand, Divided We Fall." Not only is it on our state seal, but as a battleground state in the Civil War, it has always held a special meaning for Kentuckians.

After the unprecedented ice storms that moved through our state in late January 2009, the Commonwealth and its people were put to

the test. Hundreds of thousands were without power or running water for weeks, infrastructure crumbled, and lives were lost.

Against great odds and in a brave display of humanity and strength, Kentuckians stood by one another and proved that together we could weather the storm.

A large debt of gratitude must be paid to the countless unsung, volunteer heroes of this storm: the Kentuckians who helped their neighbors in need with food, clothing, and shelter; the radio stations who pushed aside their regular programming to keep Kentuckians aware of the latest developments; the KEMA and FEMA workers who were on the front lines; and the volunteers at food pantries across the state whose generosity was astounding.

Our Kentucky National Guard, our local communities, and our volunteers from all over the state worked quickly and admirably to restore services, provide emergency meals, and clear debris. Through the swift support of these volunteers and the prudent leadership of Governor Beshear, hundreds if not thousands of lives were saved.

Truly, Kentuckians are deserving of our state motto as they exemplify the courage, leadership, and compassion that bind us together in times of need.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the people of the Commonwealth for yet another heroic example of what it means to be a Kentuckian.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the many volunteers who rose above and beyond the call of duty in helping their fellow Kentuckians following what many consider to be the worst natural disaster in the Commonwealth's history.

In late January, severe ice storms left over 700,000 homes without power, countless businesses were crippled and communities across the state were left with miles of roads to clear and enormous amounts of debris to clean up. The First Congressional District bore the brunt of these devastating storms, with many in Western Kentucky being left without power for weeks while local officials and utility workers labored round the clock to restore electricity.

While this was an extremely trying time for the First District, it also brought out the very best in many of our local leaders and ordinary citizens who volunteered their time to help their communities. State and local officials acted quickly to coordinate relief efforts with various community organizations and faith-based groups. Volunteers operated 192 shelters across the Commonwealth, providing shelter, food and water to nearly 8,000 Kentuckians. Individuals from 25 organizations in 15 states traveled to Kentucky to volunteer their time in support of relief efforts.

While the magnitude of the ice storms made recovery efforts more difficult and slower in some areas than was hoped, so many people went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that Kentuckians were kept safe and that vital supplies were disbursed to those in need. I would like to commend all of the local and state officials, utility workers, volunteers, members of the Kentucky National Guard and all those who contributed to the recovery and relief efforts following the storm. During a difficult time that tried all of our spirits, these individuals rose to the occasion to aid their fellow Kentuckians and help the Commonwealth get back on its feet.

While I applaud everyone who worked so hard to help the Commonwealth cope and recover, the ice storms highlighted the dire need to make federal disaster assistance more effective and efficient following an emergency or natural disaster. For this reason, I am a co-sponsor of legislation to extend the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Pilot Program. The Public Assistance Pilot Program will enable FEMA and local officials to cut through bureaucratic red tape and distribute critical funds immediately following a storm or natural disaster.

In addition, while I am pleased that President Obama issued an emergency declaration for Kentucky so quickly following the storms, I continue to call on FEMA to pay 100 percent of the costs for repair and clean-up. Nearly 3 months after these storms hit the Commonwealth, debris removal and clean up efforts are still ongoing. With local governments in Kentucky already facing significant budget shortfalls this year, the additional financial burden imposed by the ice storms is simply too much for our counties and towns to bear. It is essential that FEMA step up to the plate and ensure that local officials have the funds and resources they need to clean up and rebuild.

I'd like to thank Congressman BRETT GUTHRIE for his leadership in bringing this Resolution to the floor today as well as all my fellow Members of the Kentucky Congressional Delegation. Too often leaders and hard working citizens of our local communities go without recognition for the good work they do. It is my privilege to be able to honor all those who volunteered their time, donated supplies, worked weekends and overtime hours in an effort to restore power and all those who assisted in the clean-up following the storms. On behalf of the people of Kentucky and all those impacted by the storms, I thank you.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the countless number of volunteers who made a difference and helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from the devastating ice storm of January 2009.

On January 26, 2009, the Commonwealth of Kentucky suffered a catastrophic ice storm that left more than 700,000 homes and businesses without electricity and tragically claimed the lives of over 30 Kentuckians. This is the worst natural disaster in the history of the Bluegrass State.

Together, State and local municipalities organized relief efforts by coordinating volunteer agencies, faith-based groups and community organizations. This quick action made the difference for the hundreds of thousands that were stranded across the Commonwealth.

Total, volunteers hailed from 25 organizations in 15 States, operated 192 shelters for victims, distributed more than 378,160 meals, and provided 7,884 Kentuckians with shelter, food and water. Furthermore, 4,600 members of the Kentucky National Guard were activated and helped the Bluegrass State recover.

I also rise to commend the courage of the citizens of Kentucky and the bravery and kindness demonstrated from the volunteers who took the time to help the Bluegrass State recover from the destructive ice storm of 2009.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of House Resolution 214.

With no additional speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague to ask all of our colleagues to join us in supporting Resolution 214 recognizing the citizens of Kentucky.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 214.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SERGEANT MARCUS MATHES POST OFFICE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1516) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 37926 Church Street in Dade City, Florida, as the "Sergeant Marcus Mathes Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1516

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

SECTION 1. SERGEANT MARCUS MATHES POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 37926 Church Street in Dade City, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant Marcus Mathes 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 Marcus Mathes Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over the United States Postal Service, I am pleased to present H.R. 1516 for consideration.

This legislation will designate the United States postal facility located at 37926 Church Street in Dade City, Florida, as the "Sergeant Marcus Mathes Post Office."

Introduced by my colleague, Representative GINNY BROWN-WAITE, on March 16, 2009, and reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform

Committee on April 2, 2009, by unanimous consent, H.R. 1516 enjoys the support of the entire Florida House delegation.

A resident of Zephyrhills, Florida, Sergeant Mathes bravely served with the 94th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Light Infantry Division out of Fort Polk, Louisiana. On April 28, 2008, Sergeant Mathes, at age 26, and two of his fellow soldiers were killed in Baghdad, Iraq, when enemy forces attacked their forward-operating base with indirect rocket fire.

Sergeant Mathes, a graduate of Zephyrhills High School, grew up in the City of Sebring in Highlands County and subsequently became a resident of Pasco County. Stirred by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Sergeant Mathes proudly joined the United States Army in 2005. He left for boot camp on March 15, 2005, the date of his 23rd birthday. Sergeant Mathes was then deployed in support of Operating Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan from October 2006 until March of 2007. Eight months later, in November of 2007, he was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As noted by his loving mother, Sue Sawyer, Sergeant Mathes was extremely proud of his duty. He genuinely appreciated the strangers who often approached him to thank him for his service to his country. According to his father, Ralph Mathes, his son loved the excitement, challenges and adventure associated with serving in the United States Army. His love of family and love of country were further evidenced by the tattoos on his body. Alongside the name of his beloved wife were two more tattoos, one reading "United States Army" and the other, the second, an emblem of the American bald eagle.

Sergeant Mathes was full of promise. Just prior to his death in April of 2008, he had passed his Sergeant's exam and has since been posthumously promoted. Additionally, having married his high school sweetheart, Julia, 6 years earlier, he anticipated starting a family.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Marcus Mathes' life stands as a testament to the bravery and dedication of the heroic men and women who continue to serve our country at home and abroad. It is my hope that we can further honor his service through the passage of this resolution.

And so I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1516 and dedicating the Church Street Post Office in Dade City, Florida, in honor of our fallen hero.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 1516, naming the post office after Sergeant Marcus Mathes.

Army Sergeant Marcus C. Mathes was much more than a selfless and heroic soldier. He was a devoted husband