

CONRAD DEROUEN, JR. POST OFFICE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2972) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 115 West Edward Street in Erath, Louisiana, as the Conrad DeRouen, Jr. Post Office.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2972

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

SECTION 1. CONRAD DEROUEN, JR. POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 115 West Edward Street in Erath, Louisiana, shall be known and designated as the “Conrad DeRouen, Jr. 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 “Conrad DeRouen, Jr. 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. 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. Madam Speaker, I now yield myself such time as I may consume. As chairman of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over the United States Postal Service, I'm pleased to present H.R. 2972 for consideration. This legislation will designate the United States Postal Service Facility located at 115 West Edward Street in Erath, Louisiana, as the “Conrad DeRouen, Jr. Post Office.”

Introduced by my colleague, Representative CHARLES BOUSTANY of Louisiana, on June 19, 2009, and reported out of committee on July 10, 2009, by unanimous consent, H.R. 2972 enjoys the support of the entire Louisiana House delegation.

Born on February 12, 1921, Conrad “Snookie” DeRouen graduated from Erath High School in 1937, and subsequently attended Vanderbilt University, graduating with a master's degree in health and physical education.

At the age of 21, Conrad DeRouen volunteered for service in the United States Marine Corps and was commissioned as a second lieutenant at Quantico, Virginia. Following additional training at Camp Pendleton, Second Lieutenant DeRouen was deployed to the Asiatic theatre during World War II, serving with the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Division.

In July of 1944, after serving overseas for a few months, Second Lieutenant

DeRouen was involved in the Battle of Saipan in the Marianas Islands. Regrettably, Second Lieutenant DeRouen was gravely wounded in the neck by enemy forces and subsequently died from his wounds at the age of 23.

In recognition of his distinguished service, Second Lieutenant DeRouen posthumously received the Navy Cross, awarded for extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force and going beyond the call of duty.

As noted by the accompanying citation, Second Lieutenant DeRouen, despite his wounds, “gallantly refused to be evacuated and remained steadfast in his station until he collapsed from pain and blood loss.”

Additionally, the citation noted that, “By his initiative, courage, and devotion to duty throughout these hazardous operations, Second Lieutenant DeRouen upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.”

Madam Speaker, Second Lieutenant Conrad DeRouen's life stands as a testament to the bravery and dedication of the heroic men and women who have offered the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Nation.

Let us together honor this distinguished Marine through the passage of this legislation to designate the West Edward Street Postal Facility in his honor.

I urge my colleagues to join Mr. BOUSTANY, the lead sponsor of this resolution, in supporting H.R. 2972.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

Mr. BOUSTANY. I thank my friend and colleague from Utah and my friend from Massachusetts for this courtesy.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 2972, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 115 West Edward Street in Erath, Louisiana, as the Conrad DeRouen, Jr. Post Office. I'd like to thank the Oversight and Government Reform Committee for bringing this bill to the floor.

Today, it's really a distinct honor for me to celebrate the life of United States Marine Corps Reserve Second Lieutenant Conrad C. DeRouen, Jr., an extraordinary hero in World War II.

A native of Erath, Louisiana, a small coastal town in my district, DeRouen graduated from Erath High School, then went on to Southwestern Louisiana Institute, and subsequently received a master's degree from Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee.

He married Marguerite Domingues of Abbeville, Louisiana, and at the age of 21 he volunteered to serve in the United States Marine Corps.

□ 1915

While fighting against the Japanese forces in Saipan, Mariana Islands, on July 3, 1944, Lieutenant DeRouen endured continuous exposure to enemy

fire in order to guide tanks into areas of combat; and when the communications systems failed, DeRouen seated himself behind the turret in order to continue the resistance.

In another assault on Japanese forces later on July 8, 1944, Lieutenant DeRouen, despite being wounded in the neck by shrapnel from an enemy grenade, refused to leave his post with the 1st Battalion to seek medical assistance and, instead, continued to fight at his station. DeRouen eventually collapsed due to pain and loss of blood and was carried off the field of battle by his comrades. He finally succumbed to his wounds on his ship and was buried at sea.

Lieutenant DeRouen's actions were an inspiration to the marines he fought beside and were a contributing factor in the success of the campaign in the Mariana Islands. Because of his heroic death at the age of only 23 years of age, he was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for his bravery in a combat zone, the second highest decorated Medal of Honor. Today I join the town of Erath in honoring this fallen hero with the dedication of their post office to the name of Second Lieutenant Conrad C. DeRouen, Jr. for being the highest decorated veteran in its history, a real hero and someone we should all honor.

As we honor Lieutenant DeRouen today, we also must recognize our present-day heroes in Iraq and Afghanistan, those who have fallen and those who continue to fight, and we thank them as well as their families and the families of all of our troops who put on a uniform.

I now ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, but I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. It's an honor to stand and rise in support of H.R. 2972 and the great American hero that we know as Conrad DeRouen. I appreciate bringing this to our attention, and we look forward to having this post office named after him. It's the least we could do from a country that's so grateful.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. 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 pass the bill, H.R. 2972.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONGRATULATING NBA CHAMPION
LOS ANGELES LAKERS

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 566) congratulating the 2008–2009 National Basketball Association Champions, the Los Angeles Lakers, on an outstanding and historic season.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 566

Whereas the Los Angeles Lakers are one of the most successful and respected franchises in the history of the National Basketball Association (NBA);

Whereas prior to the 2008–2009 season, the Lakers won 14 NBA championships, with a cast of players that, over the years, have included NBA greats such as Wilt Chamberlain, Erving “Magic” Johnson, James Worthy, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Shaquille O’Neal, Michael Cooper, Elgin Baylor, A.C. Green, and other Lakers stars, whose accomplishments were captured courtside by legendary Lakers sportscaster Francis Dayle “Chick/Chicky Baby” Hearn;

Whereas in the off-season, the Lakers’ General Manager, Mitch Kupchak, with the support of the team’s owner, Jerry Buss, maintained the Lakers core of Kobe Bryant, Lamar Odom, Derek Fisher, Pau Gasol, and Trevor Ariza;

Whereas the combination of Bryant, Odom, Fisher, Gasol, and Ariza, led the 2008–2009 Lakers to a 65–17 regular season record and the number one spot in the Western Conference playoffs;

Whereas Ariza first came to fame as a member of the 2002 and 2003 California State Championship teams at Westchester High School in Los Angeles, California;

Whereas the Lakers entered the NBA playoffs with home court advantage as a result of the team’s regular season performance and defeated the Utah Jazz in 5 games;

Whereas the Lakers then faced the Houston Rockets in the Western Conference semifinals, winning in 7 games, with Pau Gasol scoring 21 points in an 89–70 victory in the deciding game;

Whereas the Lakers squared off against the high-octane Denver Nuggets, clinching the series in 6 games, thanks to the outstanding play of Pau Gasol and Kobe Bryant;

Whereas the Lakers’ matchup with the Orlando Magic in the NBA finals represented a battle between a veteran team, the Lakers, and a young Magic team, led by Dwight Howard;

Whereas the Lakers won the first 2 games of the finals in Los Angeles, including a hard-fought Game 2, during which Kobe Bryant and Pau Gasol combined for 53 points, propelling the Lakers to a 101–96 victory;

Whereas although the Lakers lost Game 3 in Orlando by a score of 108–104, NBA fans were treated to a 31-point performance by Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, who played all but 8 minutes of the game;

Whereas the Lakers were able to defeat the Magic in Game 4 despite a 25-point performance by Magic forward Hedo Turkoglu;

Whereas the Lakers won Game 5 against the Magic by a final score of 99–86, clinching a historic championship, Kobe Bryant’s first championship without Shaquille O’Neal, Head Coach Phil Jackson’s 10th title as a coach, and the Lakers organization’s 15th championship;

Whereas the Lakers recovered from a devastating loss in the 2008 NBA finals against the Boston Celtics to win the 2009 NBA

championship and achieve historic championships for Head Coach Phil Jackson, and Kobe Bryant;

Whereas the Lakers’ Kobe Bryant was presented with the Bill Russell NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Award;

Whereas in addition to the contributions of superstars Bryant, Gasol, and Odom, strong contributions by Ariza, Brown, Farmar, Ilunga-Mbenga, Bynum, Fisher, Powell, Vujacic, and Walton returned the glory that has marked much of the Los Angeles Lakers franchise history;

Whereas Lakers owner Jerry Buss, General Manager Mitch Kupchak, Head Coach Phil Jackson, and the entire roster and coaching staff have joined previous great Lakers teams in winning the NBA championship; and

Whereas the hustle, team defense, and overall unselfish play of the 2008–2009 Lakers are emblematic of the tradition that has been a hallmark of the franchise for more than 63 years, and serves as a model for coaches and players everywhere: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the 2008–2009 National Basketball Association (NBA) World Champions, the Los Angeles Lakers, are to be congratulated for an outstanding and historic season; and

(2) the Lakers, in winning their 15th NBA World Championship, capped a remarkable, unprecedented single-season turnaround that captivated basketball fans across America and around the world.

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. Madam 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. Madam Speaker, I now yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as chairman of the House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia and on behalf of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I am pleased to join my colleagues, and principally Ms. WATERS from the State of California, in the consideration of H. Res. 566, which provides for the recognition of the National Basketball Association Champion Los Angeles Lakers for capturing their 15th NBA championship.

House Resolution 566 was introduced by Representative MAXINE WATERS of California on June 19, 2009, and currently has the support and cosponsorship of 50 Members of Congress, none of whom are from the city of Boston, courtesy of Chairman TOWNS. The measure has been considered and approved by the Oversight Committee and now comes to the House floor as a means of highlighting the Lakers’ successful 2008–2009 NBA season and their final victory.

Madam Speaker, the Los Angeles Lakers stand as one of sporting history’s greatest franchises. The team was founded in 1946 in Detroit and moved to Minneapolis where it adopted its name, the Lakers, after Minnesota’s State nickname, Land of 10,000 Lakes. The Lakers relocated to Los Angeles in 1960.

In the 1980s, the Lakers became one of the NBA’s most electrifying and successful teams, winning five championships with Hall of Famers Earvin “Magic” Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, James Worthy, and Coach Pat Riley. The Lakers’ dominance extended into the 21st century as they won three consecutive NBA championships from 2000 to 2002.

Thanks to this year’s impressive NBA Finals victory over the Orlando Magic, the Lakers now boast the NBA franchise record for the most wins, the highest winning percentage, and the most NBA Finals appearances. Of course, I would be remiss if I failed to mention that my own beloved Boston Celtics still hold the record for the most NBA Finals championships. You would think they would have picked someone else to do this resolution, but I am happy to congratulate a job well done.

Led by Head Coach Phil Jackson, one of the most successful coaches in NBA history, and Finals MVP Kobe Bryant, the Lakers’ road to the NBA championship was lined with its fair share of challenges. While playing in the highly competitive Western Conference, the Lakers earned the conference’s best regular season record and were dominant throughout the playoffs.

For this accomplishment, Madam Speaker, we stand to commend the Los Angeles Lakers franchise, the players, coaches and, of course, the diehard Lakers fans on a job well done. I am sure that the Lakers’ championship is an enormous source of pride for the residents of Los Angeles, the surrounding area, and the great State of California as well.

In closing, I urge the adoption of House Resolution 566.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I sympathize with the anguish and the agony that my colleague from Massachusetts must have in reading and supporting this resolution. I can only hope that this is truly captured on film for future use.

I rise in support today, as a Utah Jazz fan, in recognizing a great accomplishment in the world of sports. What these athletes are able to do and how they do it is truly remarkable. So I rise in support of H. Res. 566 to congratulate the 2008–2009 Los Angeles Lakers in bringing home their 15th NBA championship.

For the Lakers, this was a season of redemption that ultimately ended in victory and a historic achievement. The conclusion of the 2007–2008 season saw the Lakers experiencing a humiliating 39-point blowout to the