

declining mail volume. Accordingly, we should all welcome cost-saving efforts such as those provided in H.R. 3137, that is not a detriment to hardworking postal employees, but rather will only serve to alleviate the financial burden of the Postal Service.

We all name post offices from time to time. I know I named one after Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman to serve in the United States Congress. I thought it was a great thing. But, let's face it, it cost the Postal Service money in order to be able to get the plaque, to get it designed, and to be able to put together an event because, after all, that was an important event for the first black woman who served in the United States Congress.

So these are things that cost money that the Postal Service has to put up the money for. And I want to congratulate Mr. ISSA for introducing this legislation because I really think that you might look at it as not a giant step or big or tremendous saving, but I see it today that every little bit helps. And this, I feel, is really helping.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. I have no further speakers at this time, I would urge all Members to vote for the bill, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, but I would like to just close by encouraging and urging all of the Members of this House to support this legislation. I think this is legislation that truly makes a lot of sense, and it sort of does the things that we need to do to sort of tighten our belts and work together to be able to bring about solutions to solve problems.

I think this legislation is legislation that points us in the right direction, and maybe as result of this we can find other ways to be able to bring about savings for the Postal Service.

I yield back the balance of my time and encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3137.

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. TOWNS. Mr. 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.

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3386) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1165 2nd Avenue in Des

Moines, Iowa, as the "Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Memorial Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3386

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

SECTION 1. IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1165 2nd Avenue in Des Moines, Iowa, shall be known and designated as the "Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Memorial 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 "Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Memorial Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOWNS. 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 New York?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to present H.R. 3386 for consideration. This legislation will designate the United States postal facility located at 1165 2nd Avenue in Des Moines, Iowa, as the "Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Memorial Post Office."

At this time I would like to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1165 2nd Avenue in Des Moines, Iowa, as the "Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Memorial Post Office."

Mr. Speaker, this is a particularly appropriate naming. Often we name post offices in honor of one individual whose service may have been in the Postal Service, here in Congress, or perhaps an individual who gave their last full measure to the country.

In this case, we're recognizing a conflict—a conflict that has been difficult and has cost the lives of a great many American men and women—and this broad recognition that we should pay honor to them is particularly noteworthy when you realize that more than 11,000 Iowa National Guard members have been called to Active Duty in the past 8 years and that in fact more than 70 have died in combat.

So I join with Mr. BOSWELL in support for this bill. It's well thought out. It's unusual for a Member to forgo per-

haps the gratification of naming something after a former colleague or after somebody by name in their district and to look beyond that—to look to the brave men and women who have served nobly in this crisis and recognize them in a broader way and one that I think will be enduring in Iowa for generations to come.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BOSWELL) who has worked very hard to make certain that we are here today.

(Mr. BOSWELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOSWELL. I would first like to thank the chairman and ranking member for moving this bill along. I might add, Mr. ISSA, that we did have an individual request for this, and we thought about it long and hard. Then we thought about the multitude, the many that have served, and felt like it was appropriate to do this.

So I do rise today and honor those who have nobly served the Nation in Iraq and Afghanistan, and ask colleagues to support H.R. 3386, which, as has been said, will designate a post office in Des Moines, Iowa, as the "Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Memorial Post Office."

Having spent some 20 years myself in the Army, and a couple tours in Vietnam, I understand the sacrifices, and so do you, Mr. ISSA, and so do many others, made by our servicemen.

Our Armed Forces have many assets—whether it's our aircraft carriers, fighter planes, missiles. However, oftentimes one of the greatest military assets is overlooked, and that's our military personnel.

Our servicemen and -women stand ready to defend the freedoms we hold dear. Our all-volunteer force is made up of brave individuals who know all too well the sacrifices that we have asked them to make. Yet time and again, with this knowledge, they continue to put our freedoms above what they give up. These brave young men and women who have fought in these wars, many having lost their lives, deserve recognition for their service and their sacrifice.

Renaming the post office in downtown Des Moines, Iowa, will create a memorial for all Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, and each day Iowans will be reminded of our neighbors who courageously fought on our behalf. By renaming this post office, we honor those who have served, but also those who have given the ultimate sacrifice—their lives. To date, more than 50 Iowans have made that sacrifice.

Those who have or are serving in our Armed Forces are committed to serving our Nation with courage and honor. We must make that same commitment to them.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3386. We must never forget.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield back the balance of my time and urge full support for this resolution.

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

The legislation before us pays tribute to the brave men and women from the city of Des Moines. Let me say that over 400 have been wounded, 50 have been killed, and I think that this is something that, once it's there, people will always see it and know in terms of what happened.

Let me say that I urge my colleagues to support this legislation because I think it's legislation that's broad and that it recognizes the conflict and, of course, the people that have been involved in it in the local area as well.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3386.

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.

SUPPORTING AMERICAN LEGION DAY

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 679) supporting the goals and ideals of American Legion Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 679

Whereas, on September 16, 1919, Congress issued the American Legion a Federal charter;

Whereas the American Legion, a veterans service organization, remains active at the national, State, and local levels;

Whereas American Legion members, known as Legionnaires, donate millions of volunteer hours in Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities and State veterans homes;

Whereas the American Legion sponsors and supports a number of activities for children and youth, including the National Oratorical Contest, Boy Scouts, American Legion Baseball, Boys State, and Boys Nation;

Whereas the American Legion awards millions of dollars in college scholarships;

Whereas the American Legion National Emergency Fund provides financial assistance to Legionnaires who are displaced by natural disasters;

Whereas the American Legion Family Support Network provides assistance to members of the Armed Forces and their families;

Whereas the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has provided millions of dollars for programs focused on America's children and youth, such as the Special Olympics and the Children's Miracle Network;

Whereas the American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance program provides grants to veterans who have children and who are experiencing financial hardships;

Whereas the American Legion remains a steadfast supporter of a strong national defense;

Whereas the American Legion supports maintaining a viable but principled foreign affairs agenda;

Whereas the American Legion is a staunch advocate for the principal missions of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas the American Legion played a principal role in the drafting of the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the G.I. Bill of Rights;

Whereas the American Legion supports employment programs and opportunities for veterans;

Whereas Legionnaires believe a veteran's service to the United States goes on long after the veteran is discharged from the Armed Forces; and

Whereas many Americans recognize September 16 of each year as American Legion Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of American Legion Day; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe American Legion Day with appropriate programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOWNS. 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 New York?

There was no objection.

□ 1330

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

I rise in support of H. Res. 679, supporting the goals and ideals of American Legion Day, celebrated each year on September 16. This resolution expresses this Chamber's commitment to this important veterans' service group.

The American Legion has nearly 3 million members across the country and worldwide, and of course I think that is so significant.

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

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

I rise to urge passage of this resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Legion Day.

"For God and country." These four words eulogize and introduce the preamble of the American Legion's constitution, which has been recited by its members at every meeting in its 90-year history.

The history of the American Legion began when it was established as a mutual aid veterans' organization in September 1919. The organization is a congressionally chartered organization and was established so that returning soldiers of World War I would not suffer the same hardships that those from other wars had endured.

Mr. Speaker, they have grown far beyond that original charter, and today

they represent a consolidated organization that looks after veterans from all wars and issues that are so important. Through thick and thin, through popular and unpopular wars, they stay out of the politics of the day and focus on the veterans of yesterday.

So, Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise with the chairman to support this, because the American Legion, in its work in supporting not only veterans, but also youth organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Boys State, Boys Nation, and others, puts together the veterans of yesterday with the youth and future of tomorrow. That is an important issue and one that I think all of us can appreciate.

We have all seen it. Not one Member of Congress can say that they haven't been touched and they haven't seen the work done by the American Legion in their district.

I urge strong support for this resolution.

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

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois, Congresswoman HALVORSON.

Mrs. HALVORSON. Mr. Speaker, I was privileged to introduce House Resolution 679, supporting the goals and ideals of the American Legion Day on September 16.

This resolution helps to honor the service and the sacrifice of the nearly 3 million members, men and women, in nearly 15,000 American Legion posts worldwide.

On September 16, 1919, the American Legion was granted their Federal charter by Congress, and 90 years later they have kept their commitment to serve not only as a resource and a voice on behalf of veterans across America, but also as an organization dedicated to the betterment of America through community service.

Since their founding charter, the American Legion has not wavered from the guiding principles and vision that can be found in their four pillars of service.

The first pillar is a steadfast commitment to ensure that America has the best fighting force in the world. Towards this end, the Legion has been a tireless advocate on behalf of the American soldier to make sure that they have the resources and the tools they need in order to do their job.

The second pillar is making sure that we proudly care for our veterans. And whether it is providing one-on-one assistance to veterans through what can be the confusing and frustrating experience of filing for a disability claim or walking the halls of Congress to educate Members like myself on the legislative issues that are important to our veterans, they do an excellent job. The original GI Bill, for example, helped set the standard for the benefits that we provide to veterans and was spearheaded by the Legion.

The American Legion has been there for our veterans for over 90 years,