

**SERGEANT DIETRICH SCHMIEMAN
POST OFFICE BUILDING**

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5504) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4801 West Van Giesen Street in West Richland, Washington, as the "Sergeant Dietrich Schmieman Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5504

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

**SECTION 1. SERGEANT DIETRICH SCHMIEMAN
POST OFFICE BUILDING.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4801 West Van Giesen Street in West Richland, Washington, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant Dietrich Schmieman 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 "Sergeant Dietrich Schmieman Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. 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 the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5504, a bill introduced by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) to name a post office in West Richland, Washington, in honor of Marine Sergeant Dietrich Schmieman.

Marine Sergeant Dietrich Schmieman grew up in Richland, Washington. After graduating high school in 2009, Schmieman enlisted in the Marine Corps, eventually attending the Special Operations School.

Sergeant Schmieman completed two overseas deployments. He received multiple honors during his service, including two Marine Corps Achievement Medals and a Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation. He also achieved his goal of serving as a critical skills operator in the 2nd Raider Battalion.

In July 2017, Sergeant Schmieman was tragically killed in a cargo plane crash over Mississippi. We thank him for his service to our Nation, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing more about this bill from Congress-

man NEWHOUSE in a few minutes, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 5504, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4801 West Van Giesen Street in West Richland, Washington, as the Sergeant Dietrich Schmieman Post Office Building.

A graduate of Columbia Basin College, Dietrich Schmieman joined the Marine Corps in 2009. Following a deployment to Okinawa, Japan, as a military parachutist and diver, Dietrich was promoted to sergeant and selected for Marine Corps Special Operations School.

You heard that he tragically lost his life in a cargo plane crash in July, but before that, he would complete a second overseas deployment and attain his goal of serving as a critical skills operator.

Sergeant Schmieman received 14 awards and decorations during his service and continues to be deeply missed by his Marine team, who plans to climb his beloved Mount Rainier in his honor this summer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 5504, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from North Carolina for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of legislation that will commemorate the life and service of a young man from central Washington who died serving his country just over a year ago, on July 10, 2017.

Marine Sergeant Dietrich Schmieman grew up in Richland, Washington, with his parents, Eric and Susan, and his two brothers, Aaron and Hans. He attended Christ the King Catholic School, Hanford High School, and Columbia Basin College, where he met friends who would remain close to him throughout his entire life.

In 2010, with a world of opportunity ahead of him, he chose to dedicate his life to service and enlist in the United States Marine Corps. It was his goal to serve within Special Operations Command.

Throughout his service, he received 14 awards and decorations, including several Achievement Medals, Good Conduct Medals, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He had completed two overseas deployments, serving our Nation during Operation Enduring Freedom.

He achieved his goal, honorably serving as a critical skills operator in the U.S. Marine Corps 2nd Raider Battalion at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, when he was tragically killed in a KC-130 plane crash in Mississippi on July 10, 2017.

My legislation would designate the U.S. Postal Service facility at 4801 West Van Giesen Street in West Richland, Washington, as the Sergeant Dietrich Schmieman Post Office Building.

Dietrich and his fellow servicemembers gave the ultimate sacrifice, and I hope to honor his memory, as well as the memory of the 15 other men and women killed in the crash, with this dedication to their service.

Dietrich's strong ties to his family, friends, and hometown continue to be evident. An avid skydiver, Dietrich's death inspired his parents, childhood friends, and fellow marines to complete a memorial skydive over central Washington. He had a tattoo symbolizing his love of the Pacific Northwest and requested that his ashes be spread on Mount Rainier, where his Marine brothers-in-arms will hike this August in his honor.

We recently observed the 1-year anniversary of the devastating plane crash, and I know that the designation of this post office will mean a lot to Dietrich's family and to our community, serving as a local memorial and a reminder of the sacrifice he and his fellow servicemembers gave to preserve the freedoms that are the cornerstone of our Nation.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation to name this building, which will be visited often by friends and family, after a courageous young man whose life and service deserve this honor.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge the passage of H.R. 5504 in memory of Sergeant Schmieman, an American hero, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5504.

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.

□ 1615

CREATING ADVANCED STREAMLINED ELECTRONIC SERVICES FOR CONSTITUENTS ACT OF 2018

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3076) to amend section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Privacy Act) to require agencies to accept electronic release forms, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3076

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Creating Advanced Streamlined Electronic Services for Constituents Act of 2018” or the “CASES Act”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) congressional offices provide crucial services to constituents by acting as a liaison between the constituents and the respective agencies;

(2) this includes assisting constituents by making inquiries and working toward resolutions on behalf of the constituent with the respective agencies; and

(3) this process should be simplified through the creation of electronic forms that may be submitted under section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Privacy Act), thus modernizing the process for constituents and improving access and efficiency of Government services and agencies in order to expedite the resolution of the problem for which constituents sought help.

SEC. 3. OMB GUIDANCE ON ELECTRONIC CONSENT FORMS.

(a) **GUIDANCE.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue guidance that does the following:

(1) Establishes—

(A) standards for each agency to develop an electronic identity proofing and authentication process for allowing an individual to provide a prior written electronic consent form for the disclosure of the individual’s record under section 552a(b) of title 5, United States Code, or for individual access to a record under section 552a(d) of such title; or

(B) a method by which each agency can electronically identity proof and authenticate an individual submitting an electronic consent form through a central online portal.

(2) Creates a template for an electronic consent form that can be properly identity proofed and authenticated in accordance with paragraph (1).

(3) Requires each agency to accept the electronic consent form described in paragraph (2) that provides consent from any individual properly identity proofed and authenticated in accordance with paragraph (1) from the individual providing consent or an entity other than the individual, including a congressional office, on behalf of the individual for the purpose of authorizing the disclosure of the individual’s record in accordance with section 552a(b) or 552a(d) of title 5, United States Code.

(4) Authorizes each agency to provide an online link to the consolidated online portal described under subsection (b)(1).

(b) **PORTAL; CONSENT IDENTIFIER; CONGRESSIONAL FUNCTION.**—

(1) **CONSOLIDATED ONLINE PORTAL.**—

(A) **OPERATION OF PORTAL.**—The Director (or a designee) shall operate (or designate the head of an agency to operate) a consolidated online portal that allows a member of the public to submit an electronic consent form in accordance with the guidance issued pursuant to subsection (a) to any agency from a single website.

(B) **PRIVACY AND OTHER FEATURES.**—The portal shall include features to protect the privacy of individuals using the portal and may include any additional functions the Director finds will improve the implementation of this section.

(C) **USE OF EXISTING WEBSITE OR PORTAL.**—The Director may use any existing website or portal to satisfy the requirements of this subsection, including the portal established under section 552(m) of title 5, United States Code.

(2) **CONSENT IDENTIFIER.**—The Director, or a designee, shall assign each consent form submitted through the portal described in paragraph (1) a consent identifier, which shall be provided to the agency and the individual or entity submitting the consent form. The agency shall track the consent form with the consent identifier.

(3) **CONGRESSIONAL ASSISTANCE FUNCTION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director, or a designee, shall ensure the operation of a function that allows a congressional office to provide a publicly available online link to the portal described in paragraph (1), which shall auto-populate information about such congressional office, including an indication of consent for such office to access a record in accordance with section 552a(b) of title 5, United States Code, in the consent form accessed through the portal.

(B) **NOTIFICATION OF CONSENT IDENTIFIER REQUIRED.**—The Director, or a designee, shall ensure the function sends the consent identifier to the congressional office when a consent form is submitted to an agency through the portal as accessed through the function.

(C) **AGENCY COMPLIANCE.**—Each agency shall comply with the guidance issued pursuant to subsection (a) not later than 1 year after the date on which such guidance is issued.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **AGENCY; INDIVIDUAL; RECORD.**—The terms “agency”, “individual”, and “record” have the meanings given those terms in section 552a(a) of title 5, United States Code.

(2) **CONSENT IDENTIFIER.**—The term “consent identifier” means a nonproprietary, unique identification number.

(3) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SEC. 4. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. 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 the bill under consideration.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3076, the CASES for Constituents Act, introduced by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

One of the most important services we can provide our constituents is help in navigating the complicated bureaucracy of Federal agencies. Whether it is a senior who needs help with a Social Security office or a veteran whose benefits are delayed, as Members of Congress, we can often help constituents reach a real person and get better results from Federal agencies.

However, in order for us to assist constituents while protecting their pri-

vacy rights, the Privacy Act requires constituents to complete and sign a consent form before agencies can provide a Member of Congress information about the case. The constituent prints the form or obtains it in person from a congressional office, signs it, and then mails, faxes, emails, or physically brings it back to the congressional office. The congressional office then must send the consent form to the agency from which the constituent needs help.

This process has unnecessary steps, leading to delays that frustrate our constituents, many of whom need help quickly.

H.R. 3076 helps to speed up the process by allowing constituents to submit Privacy Act consent forms electronically directly to the agency or a central portal. H.R. 3076 instructs the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to Federal agencies to accept electronic consent. OMB’s guidance will maintain a role for congressional caseworkers to advocate on behalf of constituents for a swift resolution.

A swift resolution is especially important for those constituents in the wake of natural disasters, since victims often need to reach out to multiple Federal entities for relief. At a time when many citizens need help from their government, allowing them to communicate more easily with the government is the very least we can do.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representatives GARRET GRAVES and JOE KENNEDY for introducing this bill to improve constituents’ experiences when they are seeking help.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this practical solution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, the CASES for Constituents Act, introduced by Representatives GARRET GRAVES and JOE KENNEDY.

This bill, as you heard, would modernize the way Federal agencies process Privacy Act waivers and make it easier for Members of Congress to help constituents get assistance from Federal agents. We all know what this means. It helps to speed up the process of assisting your constituents, so it is a very valuable improvement.

A constituent has to provide an agency with written consent before a congressional office can obtain information from the agency on behalf of the constituent. Some agencies, as we have heard and know, have outdated policies and still require these consent forms to be mailed or faxed. Under the bill before us, the Office of Management and Budget would be required to establish standards for Federal agencies to accept electronic consent forms and for agencies to accept such forms.

The bill also would require the OMB to operate a consolidated online portal that would allow individuals to submit electronic consent forms and to track

the status of their form. The bill would also allow congressional offices to provide online links to the portal.

I appreciate very much the bipartisan way in which this bill was developed. I want to thank the majority for their cooperation in making a number of improvements to the bill; for example, the substitute amendment would require OMB to include features to protect the privacy of individuals who use the consolidated online portal required under the bill.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good, bipartisan bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from North Carolina for working with us on this, as well as many staff and members from the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine for a minute if you had a medical emergency at your house and you had to mail a form to the ambulance service to have them come address the heart attack victim or other type of medical emergency that is occurring at your house? How irrational is that? Obviously, it doesn't make sense to do something like that, to mail for something that may be an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine, even in today's time, with the strict demands we have for customer service, if we actually had to truly mail order forms to different online companies to have them deliver something, to retail outlets to have them deliver something, a product to our house? There would be no tolerance for that.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the government right now, the government today, our own United States Government which is here to serve our own Americans, only has a customer service rating of about 70 percent. In fact, it is less than 70 percent.

Well, that might have been a high watermark for my grades in school—maybe—Mr. Speaker, but that is absolutely an unacceptable level. This is our government. These are our taxpayers.

Why is it that private industry has been able to use technology to provide better customer service, to provide faster services? It is because they care about their customers and they care about their business and there is an incentive for them to do so. They don't have a monopoly, like the Federal Government does, for many of the services that it offers, but that does not excuse the Federal Government from providing better services.

Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to work very closely with Congressman JOE KENNEDY to help develop this legislation, and this is a solution to help bring the United States Government into the 21st century, or perhaps the

20th century. It simply does the same thing that private companies have figured out how to do for decades now, where we can access our banks online, we can access our insurance online, where we can go online to buy groceries and virtually any other good or service that we need. We can even file our own taxes with the Federal Government.

Yet the Privacy Act of 1974, as it is implemented today, requires, in order for us to provide services to our constituents, which may be an emergency situation, that they have to print out a form and mail it in, and that we then have to take and mail it to an agency. That is ridiculous in 2018, and it is unacceptable.

This bipartisan legislation addresses that. It allows for people to access their own government, access government services to address important things like, perhaps, accessing their VA benefits; like, perhaps, fixing a wrong the IRS has caused; like, perhaps, dislodging a permit or some other type of service the government is supposed to provide and has been sitting on, in some cases as we have dealt with, for years.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you a quick story.

In 2016, in August of that year, in my hometown of Baton Rouge in south Louisiana, we experienced a 1,000-year flood. People were calling us by the hundreds per day, calling and saying: I need help. I need help with FEMA, SBA, and other government services.

We said: Yes, you bet. All you need to do is go to our website, print out this form, and then mail it to us.

Mr. Speaker, I can't say on the House floor some of the responses our office received whenever they were telling us about the 4 feet of water that their computers and printers and other equipment were under. It was a real aha moment.

How ridiculous is it that we sit here and act like we are 80 years ago as a government? We can do better.

This simply brings us to current technology, to allow constituents to reach out to our offices when we are addressing urgent issues, like passport issues for folks stuck in other countries, like Department of Defense issues where our own military men and women may be having problems in other countries, where our own citizens aren't getting the benefits that they paid for or they earned. It gives us the ability to quickly step in and address their issues, to intervene on their behalf and get these issues resolved.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank, especially, my friend JOE KENNEDY for working with us so closely on this bipartisan legislation, Congresswoman MIMI WALTERS, Congressman GENE GREEN, Congressmen WILL HURD and KEVIN MCCARTHY through the Innovation Initiative, Congressman MARK MEADOWS, Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, Congresswoman BARBARA COMSTOCK, and many others who pro-

vided input to us, helped us perfect this legislation and get it here today. I want to thank the bipartisan cosponsors and folks who helped us on this.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, obviously this bill would work a very substantial improvement on our constituent services operations. I have no further speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 3076, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3076, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance on electronic consent forms, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPC. STERLING WILLIAM WYATT POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4960) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 511 East Walnut Street in Columbia, Missouri, as the "Spc. Sterling William Wyatt Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4960

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

SECTION 1. SPC. STERLING WILLIAM WYATT POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 511 East Walnut Street in Columbia, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Spc. Sterling William Wyatt 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 "Spc. Sterling William Wyatt Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. 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 the bill under consideration.