

when I came to Congress. There was never a time that I went to him with a problem that he did not listen and provide help and good advice. Today, he continues to serve the House faithfully by facilitating the weekly "House of Representatives Prayer Breakfast" at 8 a.m. every Thursday morning in room H-130 in the Capitol.

Representative Montgomery is one of those people who transcended partisan politics and judged people on who they are as opposed to their party affiliation. He enjoyed and continues to enjoy a wide circle of friends here on Capitol Hill.

As Chairman of the Veteran's Affairs Committee for 14 years, the impact the Representative Montgomery's service to the Veterans of this country has been enormous. Among veterans, he is widely known and respected. Representative Montgomery served his country in World War II and later in the Mississippi National Guard. The House suffered a major loss when he retired in 1996. The veterans' programs that he put together still help people across this country and serve as the foundation and model for successful and meaningful veterans' programs.

Representative Montgomery, thank you for your service. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 491.

The question was taken.

Mr. SHUSTER. 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.

JOHN J. BUCHANAN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 1377) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service at 13234 South Baltimore Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the "John J. Buchanan Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The facility of the United States Postal Service, located at 9308 South Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60617, is designated as the "John J. Buchanan Post Office Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in section 1 shall be considered to be a reference to the "John J. Buchanan Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the Senate amendments to H.R. 1377.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) introduced H.R. 1377 on April 13, 1999. The bill designated the facility of the U.S. Postal Service at 13234 South Baltimore Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the "John J. Buchanan Post Office Building."

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Pursuant to the policy of the Committee on Government Reform, all Members of the Illinois Delegation supported the legislation.

On May 24, 1999, the House considered the measure under suspension of the rules and agreed to pass the bill by a voice vote.

On November 3, 1999, the Senate committee with jurisdiction ordered the bill to be reported favorably with an amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following day reported the bill to the Senate with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title.

On November 19, 1999, the Senate passed H.R. 1377 with an amendment and an amendment to the title by unanimous consent. The amendment changed the address from 13234 South Baltimore Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, to 9308 South Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

We concur in the Senate amendment in the nature of a substitute and to the title of H.R. 1377.

John Buchanan, after whom the postal facility will be named, served our Nation as a member of the U.S. Navy. He also served his community as an alderman of Chicago's 10th Ward from 1963 to 1971 and again from 1991 to April 1999 when he retired.

He still continues to volunteer for his community and his community wants to honor him by designating a postal facility be named after him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER), the sponsor of this resolution.

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), for the time that he has given me in this legislation before us today.

It is not often that we have the opportunity to salute outstanding public servants from the City of Chicago. I am proud today to rise to honor the work

and dedication of Alderman John J. Buchanan and urge this body to vote in favor of designating the post office at 9308 South Chicago Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the John J. Buchanan Post Office Building.

I have enjoyed working with John Buchanan over the last 6 years that I have had the privilege of representing residents of the 10th Ward of the City of Chicago. I consider him a friend, an advisor, someone who I have grown to respect so much for the contribution he has made to his community and for all of us.

This past year, Alderman Buchanan retired after serving as alderman for the 10th Ward in the City of Chicago for over 20 years. He is a life-long resident, public servant of the 10th Ward. The only time Alderman Buchanan left his community was during the time that he served in the United States Navy.

After he served our country, Alderman Buchanan returned to the 10th Ward and married his high school sweetheart, Lorraine Halbe. Alderman Buchanan and his wife have two children and five grandchildren.

Alderman Buchanan's knowledge of business and industry comes from his richly diverse work background. His work experience includes positions at the Aluminum Company of America, the United States Post Office and the Chicago Board of Education.

Alderman Buchanan is also a licensed stationary engineer and has both a real estate broker's license as well as an insurance broker's license. His experience as an insurance salesman is what opened doors to his deeper understanding of the needs of his community.

Alderman Buchanan was first selected to office as alderman for the 10th Ward of Chicago in 1963 and served the community until 1971.

From 1972 until 1977, he served as coordinator of economic development for the mayor of Chicago. While in this development, he successfully instituted programs for the retention and attraction of new business and industry to the City of Chicago.

In 1991, Alderman Buchanan was once again elected to serve as alderman of the 10th Ward for the City of Chicago.

His city councilman memberships included Aviation, Budget and Government Relations, Rules and Ethics, Economics and Capital Development, Finance, Human Relations and Police and Fire Committee. He dedicated his entire life to his neighbors, the people of the City of Chicago and has worked in the administration of every mayor of Chicago, including the legendary Richard J. Daley.

Alderman John Buchanan is a tireless public servant devoted to the 10th Ward of Chicago. In honor of Alderman Buchanan's distinguished career, I urge this body to vote in favor of this legislation designating the post office at 9308 South Chicago Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the John J. Buchanan Post Office Building.

This is an appropriate recognition of his service to Chicago and the people of Illinois and, frankly, Mr. Speaker, it is a very appropriate thank you for a lifetime of public service to the people of Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to vote for this legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I join the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) in the consideration of H.R. 1377, legislation naming a post office located at 9308 South Chicago Avenue as the John J. Buchanan Post Office Building.

This measure, introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) on April 13, 1999, passed the House by a voice vote on May 24, 1999.

On November 3, 1999 the Senate Government Affairs Committee ordered H.R. 1377 to be reported favorably with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

On November 4, 1999, the bill was reported to the Senate with an amendment to H.R. 1377; subsequently passed the Senate unanimously with an amendment on November 19, 1999.

It is my understanding that the amendment involved the selection of a post office nearer to Mr. Buchanan's home.

H.R. 1377, as originally passed by the Committee on Government Reform and the House, designated the John J. Buchanan Post Office at 13234 South Baltimore Avenue in Chicago, Illinois. As amended in the Senate, the John J. Buchanan Post Office will now be located at 9308 South Chicago Avenue in Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Buchanan, a City of Chicago alderman, recently retired as a life-long resident and public servant of Chicago's 10th Ward. He has lived and served Chicago his entire life. He serves on the board of directors of several community organizations, including the Hedgewisch Chamber of Commerce, South Chicago YMCA and Trinity Hospital Governing Council.

I am pleased to join my colleague in the passage of H.R. 1377, as amended in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and 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. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 1377.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 396

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed from the list of cosponsors of House Resolution 396.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY IN NORTHERN EUROPE ACT OF 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4249) to foster cross-border cooperation and environmental cleanup in Northern Europe, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4249

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 "Cross-Border Cooperation and Environmental Safety in Northern Europe Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) Northern Europe is an increasingly vital part of Europe and one that offers great opportunities for United States investment.

(2) Northern Europe offers an excellent opportunity to make progress toward the United States vision of a secure, prosperous, and stable Europe, in part because of—

(A) historical tradition of regional cooperation;

(B) the opportunity to engage Russia in positive, cooperative activities with its neighbors to the west;

(C) commitment by the Baltic states to regional cooperation and integration into western institutions; and

(D) longstanding, strong ties with the United States.

(3) The United States Northern Europe Initiative (NEI) provides the conceptual and operational framework for United States policy in the region, focused on developing a regional network of cooperation in the important areas of business and trade promotion, law enforcement, the environment, energy, civil society, and public health.

(4) A central objective of the United States Northern Europe Initiative is to promote cross-border cooperation among the countries in the region.

(5) A wide variety of regional and cross-border projects have been initiated under the United States Northern Europe Initiative since the Initiative was established in 1997, including the following:

(A) A United States-Lithuanian training program for entrepreneurs from Belarus and Kaliningrad.

(B) The Great Lakes-Baltic Sea Partnership program that is being implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency.

(C) A Center of Excellence for Treatment of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis in Riga, Latvia.

(D) A regional HIV/AIDS strategy being developed under United States and Finnish leadership.

(E) Multiple efforts to combat organized crime, including regional seminars for police officers and prosecutors.

(F) Programs to encourage reform of the Baltic electricity market and encourage United States investment in such market.

(G) Language and job training programs for Russian-speaking minorities in Latvia and Estonia to promote social integration in those countries.

(H) A mentoring partnership program for woman entrepreneurs in the northwest region of Russia and the Baltic states, as part of broader efforts to promote women's participation in political and economic life.

(6) Norway, Sweden, and Finland have made considerable efforts to provide assistance to the newly independent Baltic states and to the Northwest region of Russia. In particular, the United States notes the request placed before the European Union by Finland in 1999 for the creation and extensive funding by the European Union of a "Northern Dimension" Initiative to substantially address the problems that now exist in Northern Europe with regard to economic development, protection of the environment, the safety and containment of nuclear materials, and other issues.

(7) The United States commends the endorsement of the "Northern Dimension" Initiative by the European Council at its meeting in Helsinki, Finland in December 1999 and calls on the European Union to act on that endorsement through the provision of substantial funding for the Initiative.

(8) While the European Union, its member states, and other European countries should clearly take the lead in addressing the challenges posed in Northern Europe, in particular through appropriate yet substantial assistance provided by the European Union, the United States-Northern Europe Initiative, and this Act are intended to supplement such efforts and build on the considerable assistance that the United States has already provided to the Baltic states and the Russian Federation. Partnership with other countries in the region means modest United States investment can have significant impact.

(9) The United States Northern Europe Initiative's focus on regional environmental challenges is particularly important. Northern Europe is home to significant environmental problems, particularly the threat posed by nuclear waste from Russian submarines, icebreakers, and nuclear reactors.

(10) In particular, 21,000 spent fuel assemblies from Russian submarines are lying exposed near Andreyeva Bay, nearly 60 dangerously decrepit nuclear submarines, many in danger of sinking, are languishing in the Murmansk area of Northwest Russia, whole reactors and radioactive liquid waste are stored on unsafe floating barges, and there are significant risks of marine and atmospheric contamination from accidents arising from loss of electricity or fire on deteriorating, poorly monitored nuclear submarines.

(11) This waste poses a threat to the safety and stability of Northern Europe and to countries of the Eurasian continent.

(12)(A) In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency has facilitated the expansion and upgrading of a facility for the treatment of low-level liquid radioactive waste from the decommissioning of nuclear submarines docked at naval facilities in the Arctic region of Russia.

(B) The Environmental Protection Agency has also initiated a project to construct an 80-ton prototype cask for the storage and transport of civilian-controlled spent nuclear fuel, much of it damaged and currently stored onboard an aging vessel anchored in Murmansk Harbor. Currently in the design phase, this project is scheduled for completion in 2000.

(13) Working with the countries in the region to address these environmental problems remains vital to the long-term national interest of the United States.