

Mack's story is so inspiring. From humble beginnings, Mack became a respected community leader who influenced young people's lives.

Mack's reputation as a local track star piqued the interest of Olympic organizers. Over 60 years ago, Mack, along with another Olympic great, Jesse Owens, traveled to Berlin to compete in the 1936 games. In competition, it was reported that Mack's skill and technical ability on the track was so pure that he thought nothing of wearing the same track shoes that he wore in competition in Pasadena to compete in the Olympic village against the world's best and to win.

Mack earned his silver medal in that competition, with Jesse Owens winning the gold medal. Both of these great American Olympians portrayed a powerful image of freedom in the midst of a hostile and fascist Nazi Germany. Mack returned home to begin working in Pasadena as a city employee, and he also cared for his mother and for his family.

Mack eventually lost his job with the City, Mr. Speaker. As the New York Times later reported, Pasadena's African-American city employees were summarily fired in a desegregation battle when a judge opened the public pools and other facilities to all city residents.

Showing the same determination that carried him to triumph on the track, Mack never flagged. He channeled his energy and commitment back to his own neighborhood and to others throughout the city. He became a well-respected and widely known community figure, as well as an internationally recognized athlete. Mack volunteered countless thousands upon thousands of hours in gymnasiums, boys and girls clubs and after-school programs throughout the area.

Mack's work product today is proudly on display in thousands of homes and businesses. It is found in the inspired generations of youngsters that Mack touched and helped to get involved in school, sports and their community. His efforts fostered their success.

Fifty years after Mack competed in the Berlin Olympics, Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of meeting him and his wife in their home one day. It was about 15 years ago.

I was a young deputy district attorney working in the Pasadena courthouse, and Mack was helping me on a community issue. I went to visit him in his home along with four or five police officers and a couple of deputy district attorneys. He and his family were very gracious to us. They spent a lot of time with us.

When it was time to go, I asked Mack if he had any pictures of himself because I wanted him to autograph one. Well, I was teased mercilessly by the police officers and senior district attorneys with me for asking for an autograph. I was told that was a childish request.

When Mack's lovely wife, Del, said "I think we have some pictures left over from the Olympics," every one of those police officers and senior prosecutors almost knocked me over to get in line at the kitchen table to get their signed picture from Mack first!

I still have that picture, Mr. Speaker, and I will cherish that photograph Mack gave me 15 years ago as I know one day my children and grandchildren will cherish it.

Not long ago, the City of Pasadena saluted the contributions of Mack and his brother Jackie. The City erected a monument in City Hall in tribute to these two great figures that hailed from the City of Roses. That was a fitting tribute to the Robinson family.

Today, the United States House of Representatives will honor the contributions of Mack Robinson, both to Pasadena and to his country, by naming a very public building after a man whose life was spent serving the public. It is a small way for us to thank one of Pasadena's great sons.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) for yielding to me, and I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), the ranking member, for his support.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me in conclusion just say that, as is the case too often, there is an irony in the life of the gentleman who we honor. Matthew Mack Robinson, who represented this country in Hitler's Berlin at the Olympics as an African American, came home to this country and his home city, working as a City employee, was fired summarily with every other African American who worked for the City at that time. Things have changed, because time and effort and circumstances have helped bring a more enlightened leadership to our Nation. In many ways, the same doors that opened for his brother Jackie Robinson in some respects opened for Matthew Robinson.

But the City of Pasadena has seen fit to honor him with a statute along with his brother, and, in some ways, that perhaps makes some amends for the travesty of justice that he was subjected to. But, nonetheless, his life, moving from Georgia to California, starting out in a technical high school, on to a junior college, and after the Olympics, to the University of Oregon, his work as a community leader and as a public-spirited citizen, it is fitting that this Congress honor him through this legislation.

I ask that all of my colleagues support this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), the ranking member.

We have, as I tried to indicate in my remarks on this proposal and by the

gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN), an amazing story that in so many ways was a quiet story and yet in equal ways is one that screams to us about what was wrong in terms of this country's direction and what one person can do through dedication and through caring to make it better.

I think that all of us can stand here and support this very, very worthy nominee and this very, very worthy proposal.

I am honored to join with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN), and others in urging its passage.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4157.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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ALAN B. SHEPARD, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4517) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 24 Tsienneto Road in Derry, New Hampshire, as the "Alan B. Shepard, Jr. Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4517

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

SECTION 1. ALAN B. SHEPARD, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 24 Tsienneto Road in Derry, New Hampshire, shall be known and designated as the "Alan B. Shepard, Jr. 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 "Alan B. Shepard, Jr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 20 minutes.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4517.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned on the previous piece of legislation, one of the more likable aspects and certainly favorable aspects of serving as the chair of this Subcommittee on Postal Service is it provides the opportunity to learn new things about very special people.

Certainly in the previous bill, the one we just dealt with, Mack Robinson was a very, very special person who did some incredible and some very courageous things, but in many ways did them with a quiet determination.

We have before us now, Mr. Speaker, a bill that seeks to honor a gentleman who also is very special and who also showed great courage, great determination, but perhaps showed it through a somewhat different venue, through a somewhat more public perspective.

I think certainly in my generation and those before us and those shortly after, the name Alan B. Shepard, Jr. is far from unknown. Most of us grew up in an era in the late 1950s and 1960s when space travel, space exploration was in its infancy, when we knew far less than we do now, when each step was a first, each step was surrounded by the unknown, by the possible calamities that those kinds of factors and unknown circumstances could surely bring.

There were some very, very courageous people at that time, such as Alan B. Shepard, Jr. who stepped forward, who used their training as pilots, who used their knowledge and their skills accrued by both through the service and through their academic studies to take us into outer space.

As one of the Mercury astronauts in 1959, of course Alan Shepard enjoys and has earned the reputation of being America's first to journey into space. Everything about this man before that time and since speaks grace and elegance, determination, and courage.

We certainly owe our thanks to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU), the primary sponsor of this bill, for bringing us this legislation, for providing us an opportunity to recognize and pay tribute to such a great American.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to concur in the comments of the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH), chairman of the Subcommittee on Postal Service, and I rise in support of H.R. 4517.

This is another example of someone who has had a distinguished career and obviously someone who really helped open the door to space travel, being the first American in 1959, which is a long time ago, but when he started out, and then later on in 1963 and throughout his career with NASA, has demonstrated a type of courage and determination for the exploration of space. I think this is appropriate, and I want to thank the gentleman from New Hamp-

shire (Mr. SUNUNU), the prime sponsor of this legislation, for bringing this forward.

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

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) with our appreciation. We are privileged to have the gentleman from New Hampshire here who brought us this particular piece of legislation and, of course, in that context brought us the name of Alan B. Shepard, Jr.

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to rise in support of this legislation honoring Alan Shepard, a true American hero and America's first man in space. Alan Shepard was born and raised in Derry, New Hampshire, and he is certainly best known for his historic flight on Freedom 7. But that was only one of a long line of historic achievements for this great American.

He was a Navy veteran. He was a test pilot. He was a pioneer in America's early space program. He was chief of NASA's Astronaut Office. He was the space craft commander on Apollo 14. He was one of the very few select individuals who have walked on the moon. In fact, his time set a record for the longest lunar visit, over 33 hours.

His achievements were recognized by NASA, by organizations across the country and across the world. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Today, it a great source of personal pride to rise in support of the people of Derry, New Hampshire who seek to recognize this great individual whose service and dedication has brought pride, not just to New Hampshire, but to our entire Nation.

I ask my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS), the remaining Member of the New Hampshire delegation, a fine gentleman who I am certain consulted and worked with the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) on this piece of legislation and who is a cosponsor of it.

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding me this time. The entire New Hampshire delegation shall be heard from today on this issue.

I want to praise the gentleman from the First Congressional District of New Hampshire for introducing this bill which dedicates this Post Office in Derry.

Let me reminisce for a second, if I could, about Alan Shepard who was true, truly a hero. I remember back in the early 1960s when my dad was in Congress representing the second district and a member of the Space Committee, now, what the Committee on Science calls the Subcommittee on

Space and Aeronautics, whatever its newest name is, probably the issue of sending a man to the moon was clearly one of our major national goals.

Alan Shepard who was the first American to go into space, although he did not orbit the earth, he went up and came down, about an 18-minute flight, was a true American hero. There had not been one in reality since Charles Lindbergh flew across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927.

So Alan Shepard, for this young school child, I was in the third grade at the time, was an enormous event for us and for everybody in New Hampshire. Alan Shepard, everybody who is in my generation will remember the movie that every school child saw of Alan Shepard. What he did as the first astronaut in space was truly heroic. Nobody knew whether a human being could really survive in this tiny little space capsule.

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And Alan Shepard did it, and he went on to have a long and distinguished career in NASA.

As a true New Hampshire native, I think it is fitting that this post office facility be dedicated to him in his original hometown.

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

Let me just echo the comments of the gentleman from Pennsylvania and, of course, the gentlemen from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) and the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) for the tribute that they paid to a very, very special individual, as our last speaker suggested, I think very correctly, a true American hero, Alan B. Shepard, Jr.

I would just make a final urging to all our Members to join us in supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4517.

The question was taken.

Mr. MCHUGH. 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.

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JOSEPH F. SMITH POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4554) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1602 Frankford Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the "Joseph F. Smith Post Office Building."