

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."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4554

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

SECTION 1. REDESIGNATION.

The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1602 Frankford Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and known as the Kensington Station, shall be known and designated as the "Joseph F. Smith Post Office Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Joseph F. Smith 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. 4554.

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, I would never be so bold as to suggest that we save the best for last, but let me instead suggest that for all of the very special individuals that we have the opportunity both here today and traditionally on this floor through the process of postal namings it is somewhat special, I think for most of us, to have the opportunity to pay such a tribute to a former colleague, to someone who had the honor, as we all do, to serve in this, the people's House. And this final legislation, brought to us by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI), is indeed such an opportunity.

Joseph F. Smith was in fact a Member of this body, elected to the 97th Congress to represent his home district in Pennsylvania. But for anyone having the opportunity, as I have had, who takes the time to look over this gentleman's distinguished life story, we find that his service and his efforts and contribution extended far beyond the walls of this particular House.

In fact, he began as a sergeant in the United States Army, serving not only in World War II but receiving a Purple Heart for the wound he received in that action. He served as a congressional staffer, later serving in the Pennsylvania State Senate before coming to Congress; and after having left Congress, he continued to serve in politics and government through various party positions.

This is a man who, I think, has shown in his lifetime that he cares as well about his communities, who always strived to serve them, whether through the Armed Services and de-

fending our Nation's pride and freedom, or through elective office and serving those people who were selecting him time and again to be their representative.

So just a final word of thanks to the sponsor, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI), for bringing us this bill.

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

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

First, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4554, a bill to designate a post office in Philadelphia after Joseph F. Smith, a former Member of this body.

If I can take some liberties, before I speak on the bill, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank a departing staff member of mine, Neil Snyder, who is here on the floor, who has served as my legislative director since I came to the Congress. He is moving on to a brighter future, and I want to wish him and his wife all the best. He is someone who was from my district back home, but has had a great deal of impact on the legislative successes we have had here in the House, and I would hope that my colleagues would join with me in wishing him well.

This legislation to honor Joe Smith, who served both in the Pennsylvania State Senate, where I served, and here in the Congress, is someone who, as has been mentioned by the gentleman from New York, has been much more than a lawmaker. He also served in the United States Armed Forces, fought in World War II and received the Purple Heart. He could have probably received a few other Purple Hearts for the rough and tumble of Philadelphia politics that he had to endure through his many years and decades of service in Philadelphia as a ward leader and other various positions.

There is no one better qualified, more uniquely situated to speak on the life and legacy of Mr. Smith, or Chairman Smith, than my colleague, the gentleman from Philadelphia (Mr. BRADY), who is not only the Member of Congress representing the first district but also serves now as the chairman of the same Democratic party that Joe Smith served as chairman of.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) to speak on this legislation.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support bill 4554. My friend, Joe Smith, served in Congress, earned the Purple Heart in World War II, was a fellow ward leader for 30 years, and was the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations in the Senate in the State of Pennsylvania. But closer to my heart, he was my predecessor in the city of Philadelphia as the chairman of the Democratic party in the city, and nobody knows better than I do what a tough position that can be at times.

He was a people person. He loved the people that he served in his neighborhood. Mr. Speaker, that is why this distinguished honor is so fitting. In naming this post office after him, his memory will remain in that community forever. To his lovely wife, Jean, to his daughter, Gigi, we want them to know that we are as proud of him as they have been throughout his distinguished career.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI), for introducing this measure, and my friend and partner, the gentleman from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), for bringing this bill to the floor; and I want to also thank the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH), for his hard work in honoring my friend, Joe Smith.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume by saying that the senior Congressman and chair of the Philadelphia delegation here in the Congress, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI), is the prime sponsor of this legislation and is someone who served with Joe Smith when he was here in the Congress. The gentleman from Pennsylvania could not be with us here on the floor at this moment, Mr. Speaker, but he will be entering a statement into the RECORD.

Let me finally thank the gentleman from New York, the chairman of the subcommittee. It is as always a pleasure to work with the gentleman as we move this type of legislation through the House. And I congratulate him on yesterday's passage of the semipostal bill, which is an important piece of legislation having to do with postal services here in our country and the benefit for charitable causes.

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

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume; and first, I want to return the compliment from the gentleman from Pennsylvania, the ranking member. We did, indeed, do some good work here yesterday. That was, as I attempted to indicate yesterday in the course of the discussion on the bill, in no small measure due to the contributions, the input, and the very constructive suggestions that the gentleman from Pennsylvania and his staff made to that bill, and I think we can all take a great deal of pride in it.

Let me echo as well his appreciation by expressing my thanks to him for his continued cooperation. I mentioned earlier the bipartisan structure of the subcommittee, the record of achievement, and the bipartisan way that we have accrued; and I think, again, we should all take a great deal of pride in that. It is probably not as common on this floor as some of us would hope it would be.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr.

BRADY) for his very gracious and kind comments and also thank all the Members of the Pennsylvania delegation, including, of course, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI), for bringing this nominee to our attention. And I would, finally, urge support from all our colleagues for this legislation.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4554, a bill that I introduced which would rename a United States Post Office in Philadelphia, PA to honor the late U.S. Congressman, Joseph F. Smith. I would like to thank Chairman MCHUGH for his efforts on behalf of this bill. I would also like to extend my deep appreciation to my fellow colleagues of the Philadelphia Delegation. Ranking Member FATTAH put in remarkable work at expediting this bill through Committee. Congressman BOB BRADY, the successor to Joe Smith as the Democratic Chairman of the City of Philadelphia, was an advocate of this bill from day one. Finally, I would like to thank the entire Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation for joining together in a bipartisan matter in strong support of this important legislation.

Joe Smith started his career of service to this Nation as a sergeant in the United States Army, receiving a Purple Heart for his actions during World War II. Joe began his career in politics as a Democratic Committeeman. He was a Ward Chairman, working directly under James Byrne, the Ward Leader who went on to become a U.S. Congressman, who Joe would eventually work for as an Administrative Assistant from 1965–1970. From 1970–1981, he served in the Pennsylvania State Senate. As you are aware, Joe was elected to the Ninety-seventh Congress in 1981 and served until 1983. He worked at the forefront of the Democratic Party as the Democratic City Chairman in Philadelphia from 1983–1986. This was an enormous accomplishment, because he achieved the difficult task of earning the trust and respect of the city's Ward Leaders who voted to elect him their Chairman. Joe also served as the 31st Ward Leader for more than 3 decades. He remained devoted to the people of his community until May of 1999, when he passed away.

Joe Smith served for over 60 years in politics. Through his old-fashioned values of working hard and starting from the grassroots, Joe climbed from Committeeman to U.S. Congressman. Regardless of the position he was serving, Joe Smith remained noble enough of a man to continuously work hard towards his goal of helping the people of his country and his community. He once told me that he considered himself a "dinosaur" because he still believed in the pure art of politics—going door to door in your community not only to get the vote, but also to learn about the people and families that you plan to serve. On another occasion, Joe answered a question given by group of labor leaders with a memorable quote. "I was Joe Smith yesterday, I'm Joe Smith today, and I'll be Joe Smith tomorrow." They understood what he meant—that they could always count on this unpretentious man who believed enough in the hard-working people and values of the 1st Congressional District, to adamantly work for their well being. I can only hope that more of today's leaders will abide by Joe's principle that "politics" is never a dirty word.

Throughout his career, the people of Philadelphia looked to him for leadership, and he

immersed himself in understanding their needs. Joe understood that public service is most effective when one understands and closely reflects the convictions and beliefs of one's constituents. No matter what body he was serving in, his heart was always with the people who resided in the communities of Kensington, Port Richmond, and Fishtown. After his retirement, Joe could still be found sharing wisdom and insight from his front steps to those who sought advice and kinship.

When I think of Joe Smith I also think of the dedicated women in his life. He was a committed husband to the love of his life, his wife, Jean, and a devoted father to his daughter, Gigi. Joe was certainly proud of Gigi who is following in his footsteps as a Democratic Committeeperson. His daughter has also sought elected office and I am sure that she has a bright political future ahead of her. Along with his wife and daughter, I am certainly reminded of the three "Peg's" in his life—Peg Butkowski, the late Peg McCook, and Peg Rzepski. Whenever you called his office, you were sure to be assisted by the ever-helpful Peg Butkowski and Peg McCook. These women fought the fight in reconnecting the community with their government. Peg Rzepski served as his loyal lieutenant as the Ward Chairman for years. As his successor of the 31st Ward, she has shared in his belief that politics is never a dirty word and should be seen as a noble cause.

Joe Smith was an outstanding legislator, a great human being, and a distinguished American. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill to honor his legacy in the community that he so diligently served throughout his life, by naming the Kensington Station Post Office after Joe Smith.

Mr. MCHUGH. 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. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4554.

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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INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION ACT OF 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2909) to provide for implementation by the United States of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2909

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—UNITED STATES CENTRAL AUTHORITY

- Sec. 101. Designation of central authority.
- Sec. 102. Responsibilities of the Secretary of State.
- Sec. 103. Responsibilities of the Attorney General.
- Sec. 104. Annual report on intercountry adoptions.

TITLE II—PROVISIONS RELATING TO ACCREDITATION AND APPROVAL

- Sec. 201. Accreditation or approval required in order to provide adoption services in cases subject to the Convention.
- Sec. 202. Process for accreditation and approval; role of accrediting entities.
- Sec. 203. Standards and procedures for providing accreditation or approval.
- Sec. 204. Secretarial oversight of accreditation and approval.
- Sec. 205. State plan requirement.

TITLE III—RECOGNITION OF CONVENTION ADOPTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

- Sec. 301. Adoptions of children immigrating to the United States.
- Sec. 302. Immigration and Nationality Act amendments relating to children adopted from Convention countries.
- Sec. 303. Adoptions of children emigrating from the United States.

TITLE IV—ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

- Sec. 401. Access to Convention records.
- Sec. 402. Documents of other Convention countries.
- Sec. 403. Authorization of appropriations; collection of fees.
- Sec. 404. Enforcement.

TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Sec. 501. Recognition of Convention adoptions.
- Sec. 502. Special rules for certain cases.
- Sec. 503. Relationship to other laws.
- Sec. 504. No private right of action.
- Sec. 505. Effective dates; transition rule.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress recognizes—

(1) the international character of the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (done at The Hague on May 29, 1993), and

(2) the need for uniform interpretation and implementation of the Convention in the United States and abroad, and therefore finds that enactment of a Federal law governing adoptions and prospective adoptions subject to the Convention involving United States residents is essential.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

- (1) to provide for implementation by the United States of the Convention;
- (2) to protect the rights of, and prevent abuses against, children, birth families, and adoptive parents involved in adoptions (or prospective adoptions) subject to the Convention, and to ensure that such adoptions are in the children's best interests; and
- (3) to improve the ability of the Federal Government to assist United States citizens seeking to adopt children from abroad and residents of other countries party to the Convention seeking to adopt children from the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act:

- (1) ACCREDITED AGENCY.—The term "accredited agency" means an agency accredited under title II to provide adoption services in the United States in cases subject to the Convention.