

Mr. Watkins has also been very involved in local transportation and infrastructure projects and economic development.

I commend my colleagues for seeking to honor the accomplishments of Richard D. Watkins by naming a postal facility in his hometown of Canton, Ohio, and I urge swift passage of H.R. 3175.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), the sponsor of H.R. 3175.

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

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the time.

Richard Watkins has left a great legacy of public service in our community, public service that had many dimensions, as was outlined by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS). I think that he deserves a lot of credit for the great work that he has done in our community, and this would be a fitting tribute to his career.

He is completing 12 years as mayor of what we know as the Hall of Fame city. Canton, Ohio, has the Football Hall of Fame, and in that capacity he accomplished many things that are beneficial to people.

Mr. Watkins has always been sensitive to the type of leadership that cares about people. I think perhaps the best example were his efforts to establish the Canton Community Clinic. This is a free health care facility. It has been in operation since 1994, and it has served over 35,000 people in that time. This is a beacon light of help to many people who otherwise would not have access to health services.

In addition, he developed what is known as Cornerstone Square. This is a social services campus, kind of a "one-stop" for people that need help. The Ohio Bureau of Workmens' Compensation is there, the Industrial Commission of Ohio and the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services. So those that need assistance in these areas can go there and find help, and I think his leadership in getting that accomplished was great. And it is so important because it has not only provided these services in a central place, but it also provided a facility in part of the city that needed rehabilitation.

He has worked on a number of things in the revitalization of downtown Canton. Big cities have a challenge these days, and Mayor Watkins has addressed that challenge and provided a worthwhile legacy for those that he represents. The aesthetic appeal of downtown Canton has been immeasurably enhanced by his actions as the mayor, and this would be a fitting tribute to an individual who has served the public well, who has provided a legacy for others to benefit and also has provided leadership that will inspire others to public service.

He was also, as has been mentioned before, a member of the Marine Corps, and I know for some Members that is a very substantial endorsement, and so I would urge the Members to support this legislation and give this fitting honor of naming the Cleveland Ave. Post Office, city of Canton, Ohio, for the retiring mayor of Canton, Ohio, Richard D. Watkins.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I commend the gentleman from Ohio for working on such a meaningful piece of legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3175.

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.

BEN R. GEROW POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3234) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Chestnut Street in Liberty, New York, as the "Ben R. Gerow Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3234

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

SECTION 1. BEN R. GEROW POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Chestnut Street in Liberty, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Ben R. Gerow 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 Ben R. Gerow Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3234, introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) designates this U.S. Postal Service facility in Liberty, New York, as the Ben R. Gerow Post Office Building.

□ 1545

All members of the New York State delegation have signed onto this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Ben Gerow spent his entire life living, working, and serving in the town of Liberty in the Catskill Mountains of southeastern New York State. Mr. Gerow was a respected State assemblyman, sheriff, firefighter, and businessman.

Ben Gerow made a comfortable living for 30 years as owner and operator of his own automobile service station. He retired from his business at age 50 and entered the race for sheriff of Sullivan County, which he won. Three years later, he won another election, this time to a seat in the New York State Assembly. After serving a 1-year term in the legislature, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt selected him to be postmaster of the post office in Liberty, New York, where he served for 12 years.

Ben Gerow passed away in 1961 at the age of 81. Passage of this meaningful bill will fittingly rename the post office in Liberty after Ben Gerow, the very post office at which he served as postmaster. Mr. Speaker, for all these reasons, I congratulate the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) for his efforts in shepherding H.R. 3234 to the floor, and I commend him for honoring Ben Gerow.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join the gentlewoman from Virginia in rising in support of H.R. 3234, legislation naming the postal facility located at 14 Chestnut Street in Liberty, New York, after Ben Gerow.

H.R. 3234 was introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) on October 2, 2003. The bill has met the Committee on Government Reform's policy and has the support and cosponsorship of the entire New York delegation.

A lifelong resident of Liberty, New York, Ben Gerow was a successful businessman and politician. He owned a garage, operated a Cadillac dealership and tire business, and was a firefighter. He later served as county sheriff and in the New York State Assembly. In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Mr. Gerow postmaster of the Liberty post office.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY), for seeking to recognize the legacy of Postmaster Ben Gerow by naming the Liberty post office in his honor. It is interesting to note that

this measure has been endorsed by a host of Liberty community leaders and organizations, including the village mayor, local chamber of commerce, and residents. I would urge swift adoption of this resolution.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY), the author of this legislation.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation to the Committee on Government Reform for bringing this bill to the floor so expeditiously. I also want to express my thanks to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), who is managing the Democratic time, and the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS), who is managing the time for the majority.

I also wish to express my thanks to the elected officials, civic organizations, and individuals in Liberty and Sullivan County, New York, for recommending and endorsing this legislation; as well as the family of Ben Gerow for providing photographs, newspaper articles, and detailed biographical information; and, finally, to the current postmaster in Liberty, New York, Gene DeCarlo, for his assistance.

It is a testament to Ben Gerow's significant contribution to Liberty that there is such overwhelming support in the local community for naming this post office in his honor. There is a true groundswell of support for this legislation. It is endorsed by Liberty community leaders and organizations locally, including the town of Liberty Democratic and Republican Committees, the town of Liberty and the Village of Liberty Boards, the village mayor, the Sullivan County Historical Society, the Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce, and many Liberty residents and others in Sullivan County who have signed petitions.

Ben Gerow was born in Liberty, New York, in 1880, and died in 1961 at the age of 81. He lived virtually his entire life in Liberty, New York, where he was a pioneer of the automobile age who became a county sheriff, member of the New York State legislature, and a postmaster.

Ben Gerow was involved in the automobile business for 30 years. He was the first man in Liberty to own a gasoline-fueled car. He owned and operated one of the best-known businesses in Sullivan County, Gerow's Garage Machine Shop and Supply Store. He was the first Cadillac dealer in Sullivan County and also sold Fords, Dodges, and owned a rubber tire business. He was a lifelong firefighter as a member and president of the Liberty Hose and Truck Company No. 20.

Legend has it that Ben Gerow was an instrumental coconspirator in the in-

roduction of the first motorized fire truck in Liberty and all of Sullivan County. With a few chosen friends, he got hold of an automobile chassis and a motor, refurbished and repainted it, and outfitted it with the hose and other firefighting equipment. Then one of his crew set fire to a bunch of orange crates, and Ben's motorized equipment whizzed by the firefighters from companies number one and three who were carrying their heavy hose carts by hand. This carefully staged incident reportedly ended the era of man-powered fire trucks in Liberty and in Sullivan County generally.

Ben Gerow was an active civic leader: a founding member of the Liberty Elks Lodge, a member of the Mongaup Lodge, and Free and Accepted Masons, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

In addition to being a successful businessman, community leader, and honorable public servant, Ben Gerow was married to Angeline Wheeler for 61 years. Together, they raised 14 children in one of Liberty's largest families. It is notable that five of their sons served in World War II all at the same time. Overall, these two wonderful people had 65 descendants, including 34 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

At the age of 50, Ben Gerow retired from business and entered politics, a natural transition, given that he is said to have been known by virtually every member of the population in Sullivan County. A lifelong Democrat, he was elected Sullivan County sheriff in 1930 and then elected to a 1-year term in the New York State Assembly in 1933. He was appointed postmaster to the Liberty post office by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1934, and he served in that position for 12 years.

Under Mr. Gerow's administration, the current Liberty post office building was sited and built as a Works Progress Administration project. Given his many accomplishments and contributions to Liberty, naming the Liberty post office in honor of Ben Gerow nearly 60 years after he retired from his long tenure as postmaster is clearly fitting, it is appropriate, and, one might say, long overdue.

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3234.

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.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO MEMBERS OF U.S. ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED IN OPERATION RESTORE HOPE IN SOMALIA IN 1993

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 291) expressing deep gratitude for the valor and commitment of the members of the United States Armed Forces who were deployed in Operation Restore Hope to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Somalia in 1993.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 291

Whereas October 3, 2003, marks the 10th anniversary of the major battle in the United States operation to capture key members of the Somali National Alliance led by the terrorist warlord, Mohammed Farah Aidid, in Mogadishu, Somalia;

Whereas Task Force Ranger, which led the assault, was composed of Army Special Forces, Navy SEALs, Army special operations helicopter forces, and Air Force Special Tactics personnel;

Whereas 16 special operations personnel assigned to Task Force Ranger were killed, and another 83 wounded, during one of the most intense and lethal firefights in modern history;

Whereas two of those killed, Master Sergeant Gary I. Gordon and Sergeant First Class Randall D. Shughart, were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for actions above and beyond the call of duty;

Whereas soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, provided a quick reaction force in support of the combat operation;

Whereas two soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division were killed, and another 28 wounded, while supporting the special operations forces of Task Force Ranger; and

Whereas the valiant efforts of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who were deployed in Operation Restore Hope significantly contributed to the war against terrorism and oppression: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the Congress—

(1) expresses deep gratitude for the valor and commitment of the members of the United States Armed Forces who were deployed in Operation Restore Hope to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Somalia in 1993;

(2) recognizes those members, many of whom were killed or severely wounded in direct combat, who acquitted themselves with honor and courage in battle to restore freedom to an oppressed nation;

(3) honors the heroic service of the special operations forces assigned to Task Force Ranger and the soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division who supported them;

(4) extends condolences to the families and friends of those killed and wounded in Operation Restore Hope; and

(5) encourages the American people to remember the sacrifices of those who served.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) 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