

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this legislation commemorates the life and distinguished military service of Sergeant First Class John W. Marshall of Los Angeles, California. Sergeant Marshall was killed in action in Iraq on April 8, 2003, at age 50. He is survived by his loving wife, Denise, and his six children.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to his participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Sergeant Marshall served in Germany, Korea, and the first Persian Gulf War during his Army career. Sergeant Marshall was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

For the last few years, leading up to his death, Sergeant Marshall had been considering retiring from the Army he loved; but beyond taking a leave of absence for 4 years while he battled Hodgkin's lymphoma during the 1980s, Marshall faithfully served in the Army since he was 18.

Sergeant Marshall was buried at Arlington Cemetery on May 15, 2003, despite the fact that almost all of Sergeant Marshall's family lives on the other side of the country. Sergeant Marshall's wife and six children came to Arlington Cemetery for that burial of their father and beloved husband.

On the issue of where to be buried, Denise said the kids were told how their dad died, and they voted their dad was a hero.

Mr. Speaker, nothing in the world is truer than that. The House has not passed a more warranted piece of legislation in this Congress or for many Congresses. How appropriate it is to recognize Sergeant Marshall's bravery in the first week since the historic Iraqi election on Sunday. Without a doubt, heroes like John Marshall made the Iraqi election possible.

I know the scores of Iraqis who literally risked their lives to vote on Sunday are extremely grateful to Sergeant Marshall for giving his life for their freedom.

I thank my distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), for honoring Sergeant John Marshall through H.R. 289, and I personally think that there is absolutely no better way to name a post office than she has done here today.

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

□ 1515

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues in the California delegation and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) in particular, and all of my other colleagues for cosponsoring H.R. 289. I would also like to thank the House leadership for allowing H.R. 289 to come to the House floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I am indeed honored to offer this bill, which would rename a post office in California's 35th Congressional District after Sergeant John

Marshall, who died at the age of 50 on April 8, 2003, during combat operations while fighting with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the United States Army's 3rd Infantry Division in Iraq. This legislation is just a small way to recognize and pay tribute to one of our fallen heroes.

Mr. Speaker, whatever our views are of our policy in Iraq, it is always important for all of us to honor and show our respect for those in our military who are serving us so bravely and with such distinction in Iraq and all around the world.

John Marshall spent much of his childhood in Los Angeles, graduating from George Washington High School. At the age of 18, Sergeant Marshall signed up for duty with the United States Army and served for nearly 30 years, taking a leave of absence only after he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. He was a dedicated career member of our military, a shining example of all that is best about our country.

Sergeant Marshall died when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his vehicle as his combat team fought its way to Baghdad. The brigade was eventually the first U.S. military unit to enter the Iraqi capital and hold the city center. But reaching Baghdad came at a significant loss to the unit: eight soldiers, including Sergeant Marshall, died. At the time of his death, Sergeant Marshall was the oldest service member to die in the Iraq war.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Marshall was eligible for retirement in 2002, and many of his friends had urged him to do so. Yet, true to his character, Sergeant Marshall's sense of duty to his country and his loyalty to his soldiers caused him to continue his military service in Iraq. In explaining to his wife his decision to continue serving in Iraq, Sergeant Marshall said, and I quote, "I trained these guys. I really need to be there." What a wonderful example of selflessness he established for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Marshall leaves behind a wife, Denise, six children, both of his parents, eight brothers and sisters, and many friends and neighbors whom he touched throughout his life. I had the privilege of meeting Mrs. Marshall at Sergeant Marshall's memorial service in Los Angeles; and while I know that nothing we can do here today can fill the hole that was created with Sergeant Marshall's passing or remove the pain of the loss that the Marshall family and friends have suffered, it is vital we honor his sacrifice and service.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Marshall fought bravely on behalf of our Nation, and the renaming of this post office is just a small gesture of thanks from a grateful Nation. The Sergeant John Marshall Post Office will be a source of great pride to the community and the residents of the 35th Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, our country will remain strong and free because our military is

able to attract and retain the services of people of the quality and character of Sergeant Marshall. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Marshall family on the loss of this great and good man, and I would urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to also urge all of my colleagues to vote, because our vote, not our words, but our recognition of this unsung hero is what will bring others to understand his great contribution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 289, as amended.

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8200 South Vermont Avenue in Los Angeles, California, as the 'Sergeant First Class John Marshall Post Office Building'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1832

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) at 6 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION RELATING TO FREE ELECTION IN IRAQ HELD ON JANUARY 30, 2005

Mr. SODREL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider in the House a resolution relating to the free election in Iraq held on January 30, 2005; that the resolution be considered as read; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority